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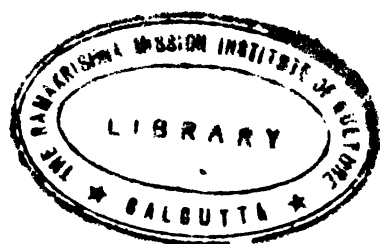
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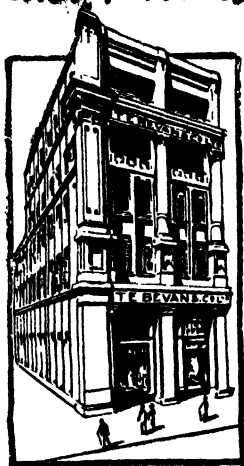






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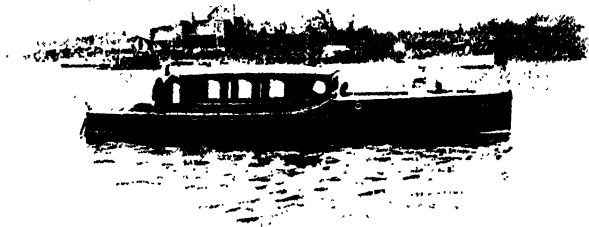
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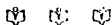
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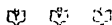
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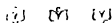
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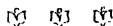
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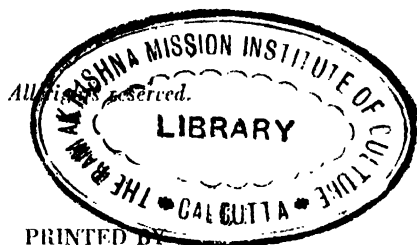
*AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO  
PLACES OF INTEREST WITH MAP*

BY

LIEUT.-COL. H. A. NEWELL, F.R.G.S.

Indian Army.

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## INTRODUCTION.

CALCUTTA was founded on August 24, 1690, by Job Charnock, the Honourable Company's Senior Agent in Bengal. His own terse and graphic account of the historical event is preserved in the "Chutanutte Diary and Consultation."

The entry is as follows:—"August 24th, 1690. This day at Sankral" (a village on the west bank of the Hughli below Sibpur) "ordered Captain Brooke to come up with his vessel to Chutanutte, where we arrived about noon, but found the place in a deplorable condition, nothing being left for our present accommodation, the rains falling day and night. We are forced to betake ourselves to boats which, considering the season of the year, is very unhealthy. Malik Barkhurdar and the country people, at our leaving this place, burning down and carrying away what they could."

It would be difficult to imagine a more cheerless prospect than that which greeted the pioneers at their journey's end. Just five weeks earlier they had bade farewell to the thriving and well-ordered English settlement at Fort St. George, Madras. Governor Yale, and the colony generally, had given them a hearty send-off. On July 15th they had been entertained at a sumptuous banquet in the great dining hall, its walls resplendent with a fine collection of arms. In brilliant sunshine they had gone on board their vessels, while the guns on the ramparts thundered a parting salute in their honour. The contrast between this leave-taking, and their arrival at Sutanuti was sharp. To west swirled the wide, muddy waters

of the swollen river bearing along, amid other *débris*, the trunks of trees, the drowned carcasses of animals, and the half-burnt spoils of funeral pyres. To east stretched sodden swamps, the three villages of "Sutaluti, Dikhal-kata and Govindpur," and the charred ruins of the poor mud and thatch shelters which the English factors had constructed for themselves, when ejected from their settlement at Hughli some four years earlier. Above this dismal scene lowered a sky heavy as lead. Nor was the political outlook any more promising. Here, too, storm clouds obscured the horizon.

Friction with the Bengal authorities had forced Charnock to abandon the northern factories, and withdraw to Fort St. George, Madras, where he arrived on March 27, 1639. With him were his entire military and civil staffs. There all remained until July of the following year. On the strength of a few half-hearted advances from the Nawab of Bengal, Charnock decided to return to the banks of the Hughli. His choice of a site for the new settlement fell upon the little town of Sutanuti, a cotton centre much frequented by traders. He was familiar with the vicinity, having stayed there in December, 1636, and again in September of the following year. Neighbouring villages were Calcutta and Govindpur, to south, where Fort William now stands.

His action in settling at Sutanuti, or Chutanutte, was a bold one. He had neither authority from the Nawab of Bengal, nor the sanction of the Delhi Emperor. The latter was seriously incensed against the English, owing to a recent attempt, on the part of British agents at Bombay and Surat, to substitute the Company's rule at sea for that of the Great Moghul. Matters were brought

to a climax by the merchants seizing certain vessels belonging to the imperial navy, and taking them by force to Bombay, in 1689. At this Aurangzeb commanded his fleet to attack the island. Bombay was occupied, with the exception of the Castle, which held out stubbornly. The siege was not raised until a suitable apology had been tendered to the Emperor, who exacted a heavy fine, insisted on the dismissal of Governor Child, and required the Company's representatives to abandon ambitious projects and return to their avowed position of simple traders. From every point of view Charnock could not have chosen a more unfavourable combination of circumstances under which to found the great city destined to become the capital of India.

The horizon was still overcast when, on January 10, 1692, Job Charnock died. He was laid to rest in the burial ground now sanctified by the presence of St. John's Church, but then a dreary open space surrounded by a ditch, and frequently subjected to the depredations of hogs and similar unwelcome intruders. Tradition avers that he sleeps beside his dearly loved wife, the beautiful Hindu widow, whom he so romantically and dramatically rescued from the flames of suttee. Be that as it may, his son-in-law, Charles Eyre, indented on Fort St. George for gneiss, from the famous Pallavaram quarries, 14 miles to south-west of Madras, wherewith he constructed the heavy and curious mausoleum which still marks the resting place of the father of Calcutta.

At the time of Charnock's death affairs at the new settlement were in utmost disorder. Not until the arrival of Sir John Goldsborough, in September, 1693, was there any attempt at organisation. This trusty

Commander or, to give him his sonorous official titles of Commissary General and Admiral of the Fleet and Chief Governor of the Right Hon'ble East India Company's affairs, marked out a site for the proposed factory, and traced the line for the mud walls which were to enclose it. This accomplished, he too was carried to the graveyard wherein Charnock had so recently preceded him. Not until 1716 was the first Fort William completed. From its capture in 1756, by Siraj-ud-Daulah, and the tragedy of the Black Hole enacted within its walls, dates the foundation of Calcutta's rise to fortune. Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive took terrible vengeance. After the battle of Plassey, fought on June 23, 1757, the once powerful Nawabs of Bengal became mere puppets dependent upon the pleasure of the Governor of Fort William.

Thereafter the scene expanded. From traders the factors rose to be merchant princes and dictators. They made and unmade kings. Calcutta reflected its masters' changed circumstances. Splendid mansions and luxurious garden houses replaced the mud and thatched hovels of early days. Painted and gilt palanquins, coaches and magnificently caparisoned elephants enlivened the roadways. The State barges of Governors made a brave show on the river, gorgeously lacquered in brilliant colours and gilt, their figureheads representing elephants, with tusks of solid silver, gilt eagles and tigers, and their rowers clad in scarlet and gold.

Towards the close of the 18th century the history of the city strikes a more personal note. Various names stand out prominently. Each conjures up a definite series of mental pictures. Over all towers the stern,

strong figure of Warren Hastings. Superman though he was, he was not above human frailty. He could love and he could hate. He proved the first by his romantic attachment for Madame Imhoff, and his life-long devotion, when a German divorce, mysteriously obtained, paved the way to lawful union. That he could hate was learnt by Francis long before the Governor-General and his Fourth of Council fought the historical duel at Alipore. Brief though his connection with Calcutta, Sir Philip Francis, the anonymous author of the celebrated "Letters of Junius," left his mark for all time upon the city. His illicit love affair with Madame Grand, the fifteen-year-old bride of one of the Company's junior writers, eventually raised that beautiful but obscure young person to the dizzy height of a princess, as wife of the great Talleyrand. Other prominent figures are those of Sir Elijah Impey, first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and his three fellow-judges for ever famous in connection with the trial of Nuncomar, the wealthy and powerful Brahmin, whom they condemned to be hanged.

Gradually these vivid scenes faded into the more prosaic 19th century. Old landmarks disappeared, removed by a generation imbued with a spirit of progress, and desirous of forgetting all that was unpleasant in connection with the past. Fortunately Calcutta was favoured in its chroniclers, from that much-travelled sea-captain, Alexander Hamilton, downwards. His pen pictures are graphic and unvarnished. No glamour of romance softens hard, unlovely facts, or insanitary conditions, nor is his estimate of his fellow-countrymen in the East unduly high. Surgeon Ives draws battle scenes

and their dread toll, their heroism and their pathos. The 18th century is depicted in lively vein by several lady writers, notably Mrs. Fay, Mrs. Kindersley and Miss Sophia Goldbourne. The affected style of the last named brings the artificiality of the period, and its quasi Oriental, quasi European atmosphere, vividly before the reader. That epoch engendered those Nabobs who formed such a characteristic feature of English society under the later Georges. With their rapidly acquired wealth they purchased titles, landed estates and rotten boroughs, which last procured their entry into Parliament and either their own, or their sons' elevation to the peerage. Their idiosyncrasies provided a favourite butt for the wits and caricaturists of the day.

The early 19th century witnessed the passing of these picturesque and pompous personages. Their names lingered in official records and in the writings of their contemporaries, but the Indian scenes, wherewith they had been associated, were fast being lost sight of. But for the efforts of such scholars as Archdeacon Hyde, the many erudite contributors to the "Journal of the Asiatic Society," Doctor Busteed, Mr. Cotton, Mr. C. R. Wilson and others, this would inevitably have been the case. To such enthusiasts as these the toilsome task of searching through hand-written records, diaries, registers, old correspondence and similar mines of information has clearly been a labour of love.

A great recrudescence of interest in historical matters occurred under Lord Curzon of Kedleston. "To me the past is sacred," was the characteristic sentiment he uttered when unveiling his gift to Calcutta, the famous white marble replica of the monument erected by Governor

Holwell over the bodies of those who had suffered in the Black Hole. Furthermore, Lord Curzon caused mural tablets to be affixed to buildings of historical significance or on those occupying notable sites. He ascertained the actual position and dimensions of old Fort William, which stood on the river bank immediately west of Dalhousie Square, and caused the outline to be traced in brass upon the pavement, wherever the ground was not covered by later edifices. Most laudable achievement of all, he rescued the site of the Black Hole from oblivion, paved it with black marble and safeguarded it by a railing. In so doing he has merited the gratitude of past, present and future generations.

My object in writing a guide to Calcutta is the modest one of enabling the passing traveller to understand something of the great city, which has played so leading a part in moulding the destinies of British India. Its strenuous and remarkable history is epitomised in its motto : “ Per ardua stabilis esto.”

H. A. NEWELL.

Lieut.-Colonel.

Indian Army.

*Calcutta.*





# CALCUTTA.

*“ Per Ardua Stabilis Est.”*

WHATEVER the future may hold for Calcutta the great city will always occupy a unique position in history as the first capital of the British Indian Empire. Raised to imperial rank by Queen Victoria, it was alike the headquarters of the premier Viceroy, Lord Canning, and the seat of the earliest Governor-General, Warren Hastings. The last named was a remarkable man. He assumed control of affairs in Bengal at a particularly critical period. When he had held office for two years the momentous changes ordered by Parliament, in the Honourable Company's administration, came into effect. The same act which promoted Warren Hastings Governor-General, on August 1, 1774, elevated Calcutta to be the capital of the Honourable Company's possessions. This was the first instance of national interference, in the Company's sphere of influence, since the Society of London Merchants Trading to the East Indies had been granted their original charter signed by Queen Elizabeth on the last day of the 16th century. From that date until 1774 the Court of Directors had been a law unto themselves. Occasionally they had received assistance from the King's fleet, or the Royal army, but they had never been dictated to. Finally their powers were taken from them by Queen Victoria, in 1858. Simultaneously Calcutta replaced Delhi as the capital of India.

The foundations of British India were laid at three different times and places, namely at Madras, in 1640, Bombay, in 1665, and, lastly, at Calcutta, in 1690. The

two first command the sea-coast. The third lies on the left bank of a branch of the Ganges, the sacred river of the Hindus, and the great commercial waterway of Bengal from time immemorial, down to the present day. This particular stretch of the holy stream has come to be designated the Hughli by Europeans. It is so called after the once wealthy and famous town of that name situated in north latitude 22 deg. 55 min. and east longitude 88 deg. 24 min., on the right bank of the river, about 26 miles above Calcutta.

When the Portuguese settled at Hughli, in the latter half of the 16th century, it was a village of small importance, surrounded by marsh-lands thickly grown with *hogla* (typha elephantina), a tall reed commonly termed elephant grass. From these *hogla*, or reeds, it derives its name. At that date the two chief commercial ports of Bengal were Chittagong, in the Bay, and Satgaon on the river, near Hughli. Portuguese writers of the period refer to the first as *Porte Grande* and to the second as *Porte Piqueno*, otherwise the Great and Little Harbours.

No sooner were they established at Hughli than the Portuguese began to erect a fort overlooking the Ganges. They converted their stronghold into an island by means of a wide and deep moat, which connected with the river and completely enclosed it on the other three sides. Trade speedily abandoned the former busy mart, at Satgaon, in favour of Hughli, which grew in population and wealth. Unfortunately the Portuguese pursued the same policy here as in their other settlements in India. This ultimately led to their downfall. They encouraged their troops. and others, to intermarry with country

women, but absolutely barred the children of such unions from official employment. Practically the same rule obtained with regard to the offspring, born in India, of Portuguese parents. These might fill none but minor posts under Government and were not eligible for promotion. The result of this unnatural state of affairs was to create an ever-increasing number of outlaws, who banded themselves together as pirates and brigands, and inaugurated a reign of terror. Their mischievous activities in Bengal led the Moghul Emperor, Jahan, to command Kasim Khan, Governor of the province, to extirpate the Portuguese, and seize Hughli. This was promptly done. The siege began in June 1632, and lasted until September. Ultimately the fort was carried after a desperate defence. The garrison expected no mercy. In vain they tried to escape by the river. Their vessels were sunk or grounded, and the survivors carried captive to Agra.

Jahan celebrated his conquest by making Hughli the imperial port, accordingly a faujdar, or military commander, was appointed to it, and it became the most important mart on the Ganges. The Dutch solicited and obtained the Emperor's sanction to establish a factory there. The English promptly followed their example. A romantic story is told to account for the latter acquiring the necessary firman, or grant. The tale runs that Shah Jahan's favourite daughter, the beautiful and famous Jahanara Begum, fell ill. Her life was despaired of when Gabriel Boughton, an English Surgeon in the Honourable Company's service, was summoned by the distracted Emperor, and effected a cure. In gratitude for this permission was accorded the English to settle at Hughli.

At first the Dutch and British factories were side by side. The former was washed away by the river, and was rebuilt, as Fort Gustavus, lower down, at Chinsura, in 1656. Such Portuguese as returned to Hughli collected at Bandel, thenceforward best known as a missionary quarter.

Although the power of the Portuguese was broken in Bengal, and their prestige and wealth vanished, their language long continued to be the *lingua franca* of the various European settlements. Proof of this is afforded by a clause in the fresh charter granted to the English Company in 1698. This expressly stipulated that a minister of the Gospel was to be maintained at each of the Company's stations, who must, within twelve months of arrival, be proficient in Portuguese. Kiernander, the Swedish evangelist, who founded the well-known Mission Church in Calcutta late in the 18th century, came to Bengal, at Clive's invitation, to work as a missionary among the Portuguese. He habitually preached in that tongue, a few words of which are still used in common parlance, notably *caste*, *topee*, *ayah* and *almirah*. Persian was the State language and was employed in official and legal documents, much as Latin was in Europe.

About 1680 the French opened a factory close to Hughli, at Chandernagore. Monsieur Deslandes was the agent in charge. He was son-in-law to Francis Martin, who, in 1671, founded Pondicherry, the famous French capital to south of Madras. When Pondicherry was captured by the Dutch, in 1693, Francis Martin was allowed to withdraw with his family to Chandernagore. There he remained until the restoration of the lost territory, in 1697, enabled him to return to the

Coromandel Coast as Governor-General of French India, with headquarters at Pondicherry.

In 1755 the Danes purchased Serampore, near Hughli, from Ali Verdi Khan, Nawab of Bengal. Here they hoisted the national flag on arrival and proceeded to name their colony Frederiksnagore, after Frederick V, King of Denmark.

All three European settlements lay on the west bank of the river. Tradition asserts that the Hughli once constituted the main channel through which the sacred Ganges flowed into the Bay of Bengal, about a hundred miles below Calcutta. In those far-off ages it was a mighty flood. Its swift tidal waters laved the stone steps of Kalighat, close to the shrine of that powerful goddess, the patron deity of the city, which derives its name from her. Now the once broad river has contracted to the narrow limits of a sluggish and very muddy channel, commonly known as Tolly's Nallah, but still sacred to the pious, who speak of it with profound veneration as the Adi-Ganga. Centuries have elapsed since the main stream of the Ganges deserted this part of its delta, to make its way to the sea through the Hurrin-gatta and the Megna.

Unlike other European settlements, Calcutta lies on the east bank of the river, in latitude 22 deg. 33 min. north and longitude 88 deg. 23 min. east. Between Chitpore, in the north, and Kidderpore, to south, it stretches some 4½ miles along the waterside, here crowded with ghâts, or landing-stages, wharves and shipping generally. From a distance the course of the river may be traced by the smoke-coloured haze which hangs above it, a striking proof of the activity of the many steamers

which ply up and down, and of the ceaseless labour of the great mills, the tall factory chimneys of which dominate the flat landscape. The breadth of the river varies considerably. At Armenian Ghât it measures about 600 yards across. In other places it is almost a mile wide.

The city occupies an area of some seven square miles, and can boast approximately 120 miles of roadway. It consists of a northern and a southern division, defined by Bow Bazar Street, which runs in a line from Circular Road to the river. The site is flat, averaging from 16 to 18 feet above sea level, and consists almost entirely of reclaimed swamp, originally similar to the marsh-lands of the outer Sunderbans to-day. As a matter of fact the ground upon which Calcutta stands is formed from alluvial deposits of the Ganges delta. As such it was liable to periodical inundations, and constant encroachment by the river. Severe earthquake shocks are also recorded. The district is subject to violent cyclones, which sweep up from the Nicobars and Andaman Islands far down in the Bay of Bengal. May, June, October and November are the months in which hurricanes usually occur. Calcutta boasts three seasons, namely the cold, from November to February, the hot, from March until June, and the wet. The last is unhealthy, especially towards its close.

Digging operations, in connection with the city's many tanks and the foundations for buildings, prove the soil to consist of alternate layers of clay and sand to a depth of 40 feet, beyond which is quicksand. At 20 feet a subterranean band of vegetable matter seems to indicate an old land surface, in which case it must have

been below actual sea level. Ten feet further down the stumps of sundri trees have been struck, a variety of timber characterised by the red colouring of the wood. Sundri trees still grow plentifully in the Sunderbans, whence immense quantities of logs are exported for fuel. This leads certain authorities to believe that the district derives its name from these trees.

### THE THREE VILLAGES.

In the heyday of Portuguese prosperity in Bengal their great galliasses could easily come up the river as far as Adi-Ganga, now the muddy canal known as Tolly's Nallah. They anchored at Garden Reach. On the opposite bank the advent of their merchant fleet annually caused a large village of thatched houses and a bazar to spring into being. This was the mysterious town of Beter, alluded to by writers of the period, who describe how it flourished while the fleet awaited the return of its boats laden with cargo from Satgaon and Hughli. No sooner had the last vessel weighed anchor than the village disappeared, as though by enchantment, to spring up as suddenly with the return of the ships in the following year.

At that period Sutanuti, or Chuttanuttee as the English settlers called it, was a thriving cotton mart, as is betokened by its name, a combination of suta, thread, and nut, a hank. It lay on the east bank of the river, and was frequented by European merchants, who foregathered under a great pipal tree at a spot known to history as the famous Baithakhana, or sitting-place. Here Job Charnock is reported to have sat and evolved his plans for an English settlement, in the congenial



companionship of his hookah. The celebrated tree stood where the thoroughfare now known as Bow Bazar Street joins Lower Circular Road, near Sealdah. Various old writers allude to it:—"The Boitak Khana where the merchants met to depart in bodies from Calcutta to protect each other from robberies in the neighbouring jungles, and where they dispersed, when arrived at Calcutta, with merchandise for the factory." Finally the time honoured landmark disappeared in 1820. The old tree blocked the new road then in course of construction, and was doomed. An appeal was made to Lord Hastings to intervene on its behalf. He did so but too late. It had already been felled.

To south of Sutanuti hât, or cotton-bale market, was Calcutta, a village which lay rather back from the river. It was traversed by the ancient pilgrim path to the shrine of Kali, dread goddess of blood sacrifice, the origin of whose temple is lost in the mists of time. Further south still, on the bank of the Hughli, lay Govindpur. It was the most recent of the three townlets, having been founded towards the close of the 16th century, as a result of the silting up of the river before Satgaon. When boats could no longer approach the once busy port-town, the majority of its merchants migrated to the vicinity of the prosperous Portuguese settlement of Hughli. Four families of Bysacks and one of Setts preferred to establish themselves on the east bank of the river, slightly above the Adi-Ganga. After clearing the jungle they erected houses, a bazar and a shrine to their deity, Govindji. Other settlers of note were the Sil family, better known by the title of Mulk, or Mullick, conferred upon them by the Muhammadan

Emperor. Here they remained until Govindpur was selected as site for the second Fort William, in 1757. Upon this decision becoming known Joyram Mullick removed to Pathuriaghatta. His descendants now occupy the celebrated Marble Palace, Chorebagan.

To landward of Govindpur stretched swamp and a tiger-infested jungle, the resort of robbers as well as of wild animals. This is now the open grass-planted space known as the Maidan.

### JOB CHARNOCK.

Job Charnock has been described as "The first conspicuous Englishman on this side of the world." He came to India about 1655. In 1685 he succeeded Beard, a feeble old man, as Agent of the Company's factory at Hughli. It was a troubled heritage. Not only were the English merchants on bad terms with the local faujdar, but their trade was seriously menaced by the activities of interlopers, who carried on a flourishing business in defiance of the Company's monopoly. Among them one of the most daring and successful was Thomas Pitt, destined, by a curious freak of fortune, to become Governor of Fort St. George, Madras, and an energetic supporter of the Company in their war against interlopers. He is best known to posterity as grandfather of the Earl of Chatham, and owner of the wonderful Regent diamond, from the Golconda mines, purchased for the French crown jewels by the Duc d'Orleans during his term as Regent.

At the time of Beard's death Charnock was Chief at Cassimbazar, the Company's factory near Murshidabad. His failure to satisfy a claim of Rs. 43,000, preferred

by some Indian merchants, led to the English settlement being surrounded by the Nawab's troops. Finally Charnock made his escape and arrived at Hughli, in April, 1686. Here instruction awaited him from the Court of Directors in London, to the effect that they were bent upon dealing a resolute blow at interlopers, by a military demonstration destined to impress the Moghul authorities guilty of befriending them. To this end they were despatching a fleet of six warships and three frigates, carrying six military companies. Nicholson was in command of the expedition. His instructions were to embark all the Company's officers then in Bengal. This done he was to send an ultimatum to the Nawab and proceed to waylay and seize Moghul vessels. Chittagong was to be stormed and Charnock placed in possession as Governor.

Very shortly the "Rochester" and a frigate arrived bringing a hundred and eight soldiers. This force, supplemented by a small detachment from Madras, brought the strength of the English garrison at Hughli up to four hundred fighting men. On learning of these military preparations the Nawab of Bengal despatched 300 horse and 4,000 foot to protect the town. A battery of eleven guns was erected so as to command the English shipping in Hughli Hole, the term applied to the deep water in front of the factory. On October 28th three English soldiers went into the bazar to purchase provisions. They were seized and taken before the faujdar. The English attempted to effect a rescue and the fighting became general. Meanwhile their war vessels "kept firing and battering the town most part of the night and next day, and making frequent sallies

on shore, burning and plundering." Abdul Ghani, the faujdar, applied to the Dutch, through whose good offices an armistice was effected. While negotiations were still in progress the Zemindar of Hijili invited Charnock to come and found a factory in his territory.

On December 20, 1686, the English withdrew from Hughli and dropped down stream to Sutanuti. The Nawab continued hostile. They retaliated by sacking and burning Balasore, whereafter they fortified themselves on the island of Hijili. A treaty was concluded in June. After handing over the fort the merchants first proceeded to Ulubaria and thence to Little Tanna. September of 1687 found them at Sutanuti. Here Charnock and his Council remained for a year, until the arrival of Captain Heath, in 1688. He had been sent out by the Court of Directors to remove the English and capture Chittagong. On November 8th he sacked Balasore and proceeded to Chittagong, where, however, he effected nothing. From first to last his conduct of the campaign was marked by a series of blunders. It terminated by the English withdrawing to Fort St. George, Madras.

### THE RETURN.

At this period the affairs of the Company had reached a critical pass. On the west coast their merchants at Bombay and Surat had incurred the bitter enmity of Aurangzib, the aged but still active Emperor of Delhi, by attempting to render his sea-power subservient to theirs. In 1690 Ibrahim Khan was appointed Nawab of Bengal. Encouraged by the fact that his policy would

probably follow other lines than those laid down by his predecessor in office, Job Charnock decided to return to Sutanuti. Here he landed about noon on August 24, 1690. It was the height of the monsoon. The rain was coming down in torrents. Such poor houses as the merchants had formerly possessed had been burnt, on their withdrawal in 1688, by the inhabitants. This being the case they had to shelter, as best they might, in their boats. Tradition asserts their landing-place to have been above Nimtollah, the burning ghât, to north, and between Beniatollah and Subha Bazar Ghâts. Job Charnock is said to have actually stepped ashore at the spot now covered by Mohunto's Ghât.

The venture was a rash one. Charnock was without authority from the Nawab. Even should he succeed in procuring the necessary sanction from this quarter, it would require to be ratified by an imperial firman from Delhi. Aurangzib, the emperor, was in no mood to grant such. Despite these discouraging circumstances the factory records were conscientiously and methodically kept. A Consultation, dated August 28, 1690, reads:—“The Right Worshipful Agent Charnock, Francis Ellis and Jeremiah Peachie resolved that such places be built as absolutely necessary, viz., a warehouse, dining room, a room to sort cloth in, a cook room, and an apartment for the Company's servants. The Agent's House, likewise Mr. Peachie's, to be repaired, as also the Secretary's Office.” All these edifices were to be of mud roofed with thatch. Tradition has it that the Cutcherry belonging to the local zemindar was purchased for the safe-keeping of the Company's books and documents generally. It occupied a site in what is now known as Dalhousie

Square, in close proximity to Lall Dighi, the so-called Red Tank.

Captain Alexander Hamilton describes the founding of Calcutta in his usual vigorous fashion:—"The English settled there about the year 1690, after the Moghul had pardoned all the robberies and murders committed on his subjects. Mr. Job Charnock, being then the Company's Agent in Bengal, had liberty to settle an emporium in any port on the river's side below Hughli, and for the sake of a large shady tree chose that place, though he could not have chosen a more unhealthful spot on the whole river . . . . One year I was there, and there was reckoned, in August, about 1,200 English, some military, some servants to the Company, some private merchants residing in the town and some seamen belonging to the shipping. Before the beginning of January there were 450 burials registered in the Clerk's book of mortality. The Company has a pretty good hospital in Calcutta, where many go to undergo the penance of physic, but few come out to give an account of its operations."

When Hamilton wrote this the settlement had been established for about twenty years. As a matter of fact, in the early days referred to, the Moghul Emperor's attitude towards the merchants was the reverse of forgiving. Charnock never lived to see any brightening of the political horizon. In a General letter, to the Court of Directors, dated May 25, 1691, the President and Council of Fort St. George, Madras, gave a gloomy account of affairs in Bengal:--"They live in a wild, unsettled condition at Chuttanuttee, neither fortified houses nor godowns, only tents, huts and boats."

Charnock died on January 10, 1692. He was laid to rest in the burial ground now within the precincts of St. John's Church. His mausoleum, a strange double-storeyed edifice, attracts many visitors. Ellis succeeded him as Agent. In the following year Sir John Goldsborough proceeded to Bengal, vested with full authority from the Company to make such arrangements as he deemed expedient. Accordingly, on October 30, 1693, he reported :—"When I arrived here I found the Agent and Council had been remiss in not marking out a place whereon to build a factory. Everyone built stragglingly where and how they pleased, even on the most properest place for a factory, therefore I thought fit to order the enclosing a piece of ground within a mud wall, whereon to build, when we have a parwana for it."

The ardently desired permission was long in coming. Sir John Goldsborough removed Mr. Ellis and appointed Charles Eyre, son-in-law of Charnock, to be Agent. This accomplished, the worthy knight contracted a "putrid fever," probably typhus, and died within a few weeks of his arrival in Bengal.

September 24, 1694, was marked by a shipping catastrophe the memory of which is perpetuated by the James and Mary Shoal in the Hughli. Here the "Royal James and Mary" foundered. She was bound for Sutanuti from Madras with a cargo of spice, pepper and redwood. Just two months later the thatched roof of the mud house wherein Charnock had resided, as Agent, caught on fire and the place was burnt. It was promptly rebuilt of brick. Being considered "a considerable distance from the factory it was disposed of by outcry and fetched Rs. 575." A Minute, of June

25, 1695, records a three days' storm, which blew down many of the Company's newly erected edifices, notably the "Lodging rooms." However, better things were in store.

### BRIGHTENING PROSPECTS.

1696 was an auspicious year for the various settlements on the banks of the great tidal river. Prior to that none but the Dutch, who were the favoured nation under Aurangzib, had been permitted to fortify. The outbreak of what is commonly called a Hindu rebellion, but which, in reality, originated in a personal quarrel between two neighbouring petty princes, led to fighting in various parts of Bengal. Sobhasinha, Raja of Chetuya, ventured to attack the town of Hughli, but was driven off by Dutch guns. Aurangzib was infuriated at this general breach of the public peace. He recalled the Nawab, and substituted his imperial grandson, Sultan Azim-us-Shan, who proceeded to take over control in Bengal, in 1697.

Under pretext of defending their factory against the belligerent Raja, the English at Sutanuti hastily threw up their long-deferred walls. They even ventured to construct a couple of corner bastions on the landside, and applied to Fort St. George, Madras, for ten guns.

The most important change wrought while the Prince was in Bengal was the transfer of the capital to Murshidabad, a distinction which that city continued to enjoy until Feredun Jah, the last Nawab-Nazim, abdicated upon the Honourable Company's assurance of a substantial pension for himself, and suitable provision for his descendants.



While busy upon their fortifications the English merchants had persistently endeavoured to rent the adjacent land from the local zemindars. Finding their efforts fruitless, they entered the following Minute on March 7, 1698:—"Agreed that we apply ourselves to the Prince to make what interest we can amongst his officers for three towns, viz., Chuttanuttee, Decalcutta and Govindpur, the ground of which will be to that extent required by our Right Honourable Masters." This delicate mission was entrusted to Mr. Walsh and Khwajah, or Coja, Sarhad, a wealthy Armenian merchant settled in Calcutta. On August 1st, the Agent and Council received three copies of the ardently desired nishan, or authority. Thereupon the zemindars were required to execute a formal bai namah, or deed of sale. This momentous document was couched in the following terms:—"We, submissive to Islam, declare our names and descent to be Manohar Datt, son of Bas Deo . . . . Being in a state of legal capacity and in enjoyment of all the rights given by the law, we avow and declare upon this wise, that we conjointly have sold and made a true legal conveyance of the villages Dihi Kalkatah and Sataluti within the jurisdiction of the pergannah Amirabad, and the village Gobindpur under the jurisdiction of pergannahs Paegan and Kalkatah to the English Company, with rents, uncultivated lands, ponds, groves, rights over fishing and woodlands and dues from resident artisans, together with the lands appertaining thereto, bounded by the accustomed notorious and usual boundaries in exchange for the sum of Rs. 1,300, current coin of this time."

It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of this concession, and the increased prestige which accrued to the merchants therefrom. With a stroke of the pen their position was assured. Whereas they had been doubtful adventurers, they were now landed proprietors, confirmed in their rights by imperial warrant. Their newly acquired powers entitled them to collect rents from the ryats, or agriculturists, residing within the limits of the three townships, to deal as they deemed fit with waste lands and impose petty taxes, duties and fines.

#### UNION JACK HOISTED.

No sooner had they obtained possession than the Calcutta Council issued an order for the erection of landmarks, which were 'to clearly define the limits of the Company's territory to north, south and east. These were to take the form of pyramids, and were to consist of bricks and mud, overlaid with chunam, a species of shell plaster. In 1699 the Court of Directors pronounced Bengal an independent Presidency. Charles Eyre, the Agent, was knighted in England and returned to Calcutta as its first President in 1700. He brought out instructions to proceed with building a fort, to be named after William III, England's Dutch King. A couple of years later word was received from London expressing surprise that no standard was flown at the new settlement, and desiring it to be done "in the same manner as at our Fort St. George." Accordingly the Union Jack was hoisted with due honours on October 6, 1702. At that date the flag in question consisted of the red cross of St. George, on a white ground, superposed on the white saltire of St. Andrew on

blue. The red saltire of Ireland was not included until 1801.

### DEATH OF AURANGZIB.

Despite the Company's orders to erect a fort at Calcutta, the President and Council dared not proceed, excepting with the utmost caution, for fear of exciting the resentment of the Moghul authorities. Their chance came on the death of Aurangzib, in 1707. His three sons immediately began to dispute the succession. A series of battles followed. The empire became the prey of anarchy and confusion as one warring party after another gained the ascendancy. The merchants availed themselves of the prevailing chaos to construct two corner bastions on the river side of Fort William. By that time the united revenues of the three villages yielded Rs. 4,000 per annum. A hospital had been erected in close proximity to the burial-ground, and Rs. 2,000 expended upon it. In 1710 considerable progress was made in clearing the jungle and planning a four-mile road to Salt Lake, a stretch of water and swamp to east of the factory.

Before long the river encroached to such an extent that the ganj, or market, of Govindpur was in danger of being swept away. To prevent this catastrophe the embankment was strengthened by driving in a double row of piles for a distance of 850 feet, and making three flights of steps down to the water.

### MISSION TO THE MOGHUL COURT.

In 1715 it was decided to despatch a mission to Delhi with gifts and a petition to the Emperor. The envoys

were instructed to protest against the exactions of the Nawab of Bengal, and to solicit an additional grant of thirty-eight villages, including Howrah, on the further bank of the river, where the Central Railway Station now stands. John Surman, a Senior Merchant, was in charge of the embassy. He was accompanied by Edward Stephenson, a factor; the celebrated Surgeon, William Hamilton, and Khwajah Sirhad, an Armenian interpreter. When the four reached Delhi the Emperor Ferrukhseiyar was on the eve of celebrating his nuptials with a Hindu princess. The marriage could not take place owing to his having contracted a painful and dangerous complaint. Nevertheless the Ambassadors were granted an audience and reported to Calcutta:—"We prepared for our first present, viz., 1001 gold mohurs, the table clock set with precious stones, the unicorn's horn, the large piece of amber greese, the astoa chelumgie, the Manila work and the map of the world." A later communication announced that Surgeon Hamilton had cured the Emperor by a successful operation, and added:—"As a reward the King was pleased to give him in public, viz., a vest, a culgee set with precious stones, two diamond rings, an elephant, a horse and 5,000 rupees, besides ordering all his small instruments to be made in gold, with gold buttons for his coat and waistcoat and brushes set with jewel." Notwithstanding these signal marks of imperial favour two years elapsed before the envoys finally received the coveted firman. Much of this delay was caused by the Emperor's desire to retain Hamilton at Delhi, in order that he might benefit by his medical services. Finally the mission reached Calcutta. Here Surgeon Hamilton died,

on December 4, 1717, a few weeks after his successful return. His tombstone may still be seen in the graveyard of St. John's Church. It records the historical incident in English and Persian.

### EFFECTS OF THE FIRMAN.

Although the terms of the firman were not fully carried out until many years later the results accruing from its possession were eminently satisfactory, and added alike to the political prestige and commercial advancement of the settlement. A good description of Calcutta at this epoch comes from the pen of Captain Alexander Hamilton, who visited the place in 1712:—"The Company's colony contains in all about 10,000 or 12,000 souls, and the revenues are pretty good and well paid. They rise from ground rents and consulage on all goods imported by British subjects, but all natives besides are free of taxes. . . . The town rises about the Fort like one about a baronial castle in mediæval times, and was built without order, as the builders thought most convenient for their own affairs, everyone taking what ground best pleased him for gardening, so that, in most houses, you must pass through a garden into the house. The English built near the riverside and the others within land. . . . About fifty yards from Fort William stands the Church, built by the pious charity of merchants residing there and the Christian benevolence of seafaring men. Ministers of the Gospel being subject to mortality very often your merchants are obliged to officiate, and have a salary of £50 per annum, in addition to what the Company allows them, for their pains in reading prayers and a sermon on Sundays."

In Hamilton's day Calcutta, in its European sense, was limited to the immediate neighbourhood of the Green, or Park, as Dalhousie Square was then termed. To west stood Fort William upon the river bank. What is now Strand Road lay deep under water. The Fort, or Factory contained the President's house, barracks, Writers' quarters, godowns, or storehouses, and chief public buildings with the exception of St. Ann's Church, completed in 1709, the powder magazine and hospital. The two last were in close proximity to the burial ground. Clive Street was the popular residential quarter with married officials of the Company, who alone were permitted separate establishments. Their houses were comfortable. Swinging *punkahs*, or fans, did not come into vogue until the very end of the century. Ice was an unknown luxury. Glass was not available, hence the windows were protected by cane lattice-work. Drinking water was procured from the river and from Lall Dighi, the red tank in the centre of the Park, which reservoir existed prior to the advent of Job Charnock. In 1709 the English deepened it, but apparently it was not an object of much solicitude, for, on May 12, 1755, Mr. Zachariah Holwell, of Black Hole fame, then Eighth Member of Council and Zemindar, or Collector, of Calcutta, requested permission to repair and enclose the "great tank," and prohibit the washing of horses and people therein, "this practise making the water very offensive." Between Koila Ghât and the Chandpal landing-stage was the mouth of a creek, navigable for quite large boats. It flowed along what is now Hastings Street, Government Place and across Bentinck Street, whence it swept south, then east, again following the northern

side of Dhurruhtollah *via* Creek Row. The last-named locality figures as Dinga Banga (wrecked boat) in old maps, from a tradition that a ship was blown ashore there during a cyclone and broken to pieces. The creek then pursued a northerly direction through Wellington Square, finally emptying itself into the Salt Lake at Balliaghatta. The theory has been advanced that Calcutta derives its name from this khal, or creek.

Chitpore Road constituted the eastern boundary of the early settlement. The land beyond was characterised by swamps, pools, paddy fields, a few bustees, or mud villages with thatched roofs, and some scattered huts. To north of the Park a road ran from the eastern gate of Fort William to the Salt Lake. It was crossed by the ancient Indian highway traversed, from time immemorial, by pilgrims to the shrine of the goddess at Kalighat. This venerable path is now known as Chitpore Road, Cassimtollah Gully, or Bentinck Street, and Chowringhee. The last thoroughfare is said to be so called in honour of Jingal Gir Chowringhee, a devout Saivite, to whom is ascribed a peculiar sect, who worshipped at a small temple founded about the 13th century, on the bank of Tolly's Nallah, slightly above Zeerut Bridge.

Appropriately enough the Police Court overlooks the site of the place of public execution. Here the gallows stood, in conformity with time honoured custom, at the cross-roads. Near Middleton Street was the Honourable Company's garden of which Hamilton wrote:—"It furnishes the Governor's table with herbage and fruit and some fish ponds to serve his kitchen with good carp, calkops and mullet."

The most northerly point of the Company's dominions was marked by Perrin's Garden, so named from Captain Perrin, commander of a merchantman, who built a house there, in which he resided between 1703 and 1707. Later on this became a fortified post. In the same way, the southerly limit was defined by Surman's Garden. Edward Surman was chief of the mission to the Moghul Court in 1715. He erected a house for himself on, or near, the site of the present Commissariat godowns at Hastings, a locality familiarly known as Coolie Bazar.

### THE GOVERNMENT.

The affairs of the settlement were controlled by a Council of nine. The Honourable the President ranked as First Member and received a salary of one hundred pounds per annum. The remaining eight were each paid forty pounds a year. In addition they were entitled to free board and lodging and a palanquin allowance of thirty rupees a month. All, without exception, engaged in private trade. The Worshipful the Second in Council was usually Chief of the factory at Kasim, or Cossim bazar, near Murshidabad, the 18th century capital of Bengal. The Third Member acted as Accountant. The Fourth was in charge of the up-country factory at Dacca, one of the old capitals of the province. The Fifth and Sixth Members were respectively Export and Import Warehouse-keepers. The Seventh was styled the Bakhshi, or Paymaster. The Eighth was the Zemindar, otherwise the Collector, of Calcutta, and the Ninth was the Secretary. Additional officials were the Chaplain, whose stipend was a



hundred pounds per annum, and the Surgeon, whose services were valued at £36.

The expenses of the settlement had to be met out of the revenue derived from ground rents, fines, customs and tolls. The Moghul Emperor exacted a yearly rent of Rs. 1,281-8-0, which required to be regularly paid. As Zemindar, or Collector, the Eighth Member of Council was responsible for the internal administration. Seated in the Faujdari Cutcherry, he tried criminal as well as civil cases relating to the Indian community. He maintained order with a police force composed of a head peon and forty-five others, two chobdars or State messengers, and twenty guards. His duties included the supervision of roads and drains and the collecting of revenue. Backward taxpayers were confined and whipped. Thieves were branded on one cheek and deported to the other side of the river. He shared the responsibilities with an Indian official who, as Assistant Collector, was termed the Black Zemindar. From 1720, until the fall of Calcutta, in 1756, this coveted position was filled by the famous Gobind Ram Mitter, whose very name sufficed to inspire innocent and guilty alike with fear. He amassed considerable wealth, a portion of which he expended upon building a large Hindu temple in Chitpore Road. The main edifice was destroyed by a cyclone in 1737. The same storm blew down the tall, slender steeple of St. <sup>3</sup>Ann's Church, and did such damage generally that only twenty thatched houses were left standing in Black Town, as the Indian quarter was designated. A famine followed of almost unprecedented severity.

## MARATHA DITCH.

With the death of Aurangzib, who was the last Moghul monarch possessed of any claim to be styled great, the powerful empire consolidated by Akbar began to go to pieces. Local governors sought to throw off their allegiance to Delhi, and found independent states with hereditary rights. In 1740 a Tartar adventurer, named Ali Verdi Khan, revolted against Nawab Sarfaraz Khan and slew him, whereupon he proceeded to usurp the suba-ship of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. By means of bribes, judiciously distributed among members of the Emperor's court, he secured an imperial firman confirming him in the exalted office. This accomplished, he established himself at Murshidabad and proceeded to restore order.

Encouraged by the universal unrest, the Marathas, a Hindu power with headquarters at Poona, in the Deccan, invaded Bengal in 1742. They were led by Janoji, son of Raghuji Bhonsla, the Maratha General, who became King of Nagpur in 1740. Their object was plunder, and the acquisition of territory. So swift and unexpected was their advance that they succeeded in laying waste the country from Balasore to Rajmahal, a former capital of Bengal. Orissa was captured, likewise the town of Hughli. Near Calcutta they took the Fort of Mukwah Tannah, on the Howrah side of the river, a Moghul outpost that occupied the site of the Superintendent's bungalow in the Botanical Gardens.

The close proximity of the raiders caused several wealthy merchants and other inhabitants of Calcutta

to submit a proposal to the President and Council, on March 31, 1743, "at our own expense to dig a ditch round the Company's bounds from the Prison Battery to the Cowkeys beyond Perrin's Garden, to be 20 covids wide." They further undertook to provide fighting men for its defence. Sanction was accorded and the work began with feverish activity. The intention was to construct a moat, strengthened by a rampart and bastions, from the northern point of Sutanuti, where a war sloop was stationed, to the southern extremity of Govindpur, similarly protected by a gunboat. The distance covered would be seven miles. Three miles were completed in six months. At the end of that time the project was abandoned, owing to Ali Verdi Khan having concluded peace with the Marathas by concessions in Orissa and a money payment. Before this satisfactory conclusion of hostilities the Nawab had despatched a messenger to Fort William, with a letter and sarepa, or dress of honour, for Governor Bradyll, whose help he requested in preventing the Marathas from crossing the river.

### NEW FORT PROPOSED.

Fear of raiders led to the formation of a militia, on April 24, 1742. The old fort was strengthened, but no serious innovations were attempted for reasons of economy, and also out of deference to the Muhammadan powers, whose suspicions were instantly aroused by military preparations of any kind. Incessant wars in Europe were a further source of anxiety to the English merchants, who never knew when distant

political complications might not embroil them with their European neighbours on the banks of the Hughli. Of these the most redoubtable were the French, who had built an imposing stronghold for themselves at Chandernagore and had named it Fort Orleans. At one time apprehensions had been aroused by the establishing of a Flemish factory at Bankibazar, on the east bank of the Hughli, between Ichapur and Chanak, now better known as Barrackpore. This constituted the headquarters of the celebrated Ostend Company, founded in December, 1722, under a royal warrant signed by the Emperor Charles VI. It flourished until September, 1744, when the factory was seized by the Faujdar of Hughli.

News of a serious nature reached Fort William late in 1746, to the effect that Fort St. George, Madras, had surrendered to the French in the September previous. Governor Nicholas Morse, a great grandson of Cromwell, and the principal inhabitants had been made prisoners of war and despatched to Pondicherry. As a result instructions were received from London, in 1748, to fortify Calcutta with the utmost expedition and as strongly as possible. In anticipation of the Nawab intervening the Court of Directors wrote:—"If he make any attempt to attack, or disturb you, you are immediately to stop all navigation upon the river, suffering no vessel to stir, whether laden or empty, except such as belong to European settlements. The Nabab will soon come to reason as we know what distress these measures must lay him under . . . . You are to proceed no further in this place than to erect the lower Fort on the other side of the Creek

near by Govindpore, which we think will effectually command Tannah Reach and Battery."

Despite these orders little or nothing was effected. Mr. Robins was sent out as Chief Engineer to supervise the work, but died before he could even make a beginning. Feeling his end approach he wrote to the Court of Directors, on July 25, 1751:—"Pray, Gentlemen, if possible, let Calcutta be well secured for it is a place of infinite consequence." He was succeeded by Colonel Caroline Frederick Scott, a distinguished officer and A.-D.-C. to the Duke of Cumberland. As Chief Engineer Colonel Scott was to receive £400 a year. In addition he was appointed "Major of our Garrison of Fort William, Commander of all the Company's forces in the Presidency of Bengal and Third in Council, and to have the command and clothing of a Military Company." For all this he was to get an extra £240 per annum, plus "the appointments for diet, servants and palanquin usual to the Third of Council."

Colonel Scott reached Calcutta in September, 1753, his orders requiring him "to proceed at once to Fort William in Bengal, the securing this last named settlement being our primary object in appointing you our Engineer General." He did not favour the proposed site below Govindpur for the new fort, preferring to rebuild on the ground originally selected by Sir John Goldsborough, in 1693. He drew his plans accordingly. While awaiting the necessary building materials he erected a strong redoubt at Perrin's Garden, commanding the northern approach to the settlement. In the following March he was summoned to Madras, and

deputed Lieutenant Wells to carry out his designs. Both Scott and Wells died almost immediately. In reporting the matter the Council wrote:—"Experience teaches us to verify this general observation that men's lives advanced to, or nigh, the age of forty, are very precarious in such a change of climate . . . . It has hitherto been very unfortunate to this settlement that every gentleman who has had capacity, or been appointed by our employers to fortify the place, have never even lived to make a beginning of the plans proposed."

Upon the death of Colonel Scott the command of Fort William devolved upon Captain George Minchin.

### SIRAJ-UD-DAULAH.

Although a usurper, Nawab Ali Verdi Khan proved a good ruler, and succeeded in restoring the distracted provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa to some sort of order. During the early years of his governorship he spent much of his time in the field against the Marathas, hence his title of Mahabat Jung ('Terror of War'). The office of Nawab was not hereditary but depended upon the Delhi Emperor. By this time, however, the once Great Moghuls were little more than puppet Kings and might be defied with impunity. Ali Verdi Khan took advantage of this fact to appoint his successor. Muhammadan though he was he had only one wife and no son. In 1753, just three years before his death, he named his favourite grandson as his heir, at the same time delegating the practical government of the three provinces to him. The choice was not a fortunate one. Mirza Muhammad, generally known by his title of Siraj-ud-Daulah (Lamp of the State), was a spoiled child of

the harem. Brought up in his old grandfather's palace, his every whim had been indulged and every desire gratified. It would be difficult to imagine a more disastrous training for one destined to rule. 1531

The old Nawab died in April, 1756, at the age of eighty-two. Siraj-ud-Daulah was then twenty-five. He at once mounted the masnad, or throne, and proceeded to make his authority felt. One of his first acts was to demand an account of his administration from Raja Rajbullub, Deputy Governor of Dacca. As Naib of the province, Rajbullub had amassed a large fortune. Siraj-ud-Daulah summoned him to Murshidabad, where he was placed under close surveillance. At the same time his relatives fell under suspicion. His son, Kissendass, embarked the family wealth in boats and sought refuge in Calcutta. Here Drake, the Governor, unwisely allowed him to remain, and thus incurred the Nawab's hostility. Word also reached Murshidabad that the English were hard at work fortifying their settlement. Upon this the Nawab sent them an order to desist, and furthermore to level their defences within fifteen days, destroy Perrin's Redoubt and drawbridge and fill in the Maratha ditch. On learning that his commands had not been complied with, Siraj-ud-Daulah ordered Rao Durlabh, his General-in-Chief, to surround the English factory at Cossimbazar, on May 23rd. The Agent, Mr. Watts, and his Council were made prisoners and conveyed to Murshidabad. The establishment included Warren Hastings, then a Writer of twenty-four, who had come out to India on leaving school in 1750. He was a Westminster boy.

Siraj-ud-Daulah's army was ready mobilised for an expedition against Purneah. Abandoning the intended

campaign, he turned and began to march towards Calcutta. Holwell describes his force as consisting of 30,000 horse, 35,000 foot, and 400 elephants. News of the danger reached Fort William, where it was not taken seriously. Various members of the garrison have left written accounts of the disaster. They agree in stating that Governor Drake was persuaded that the Nawab would never venture to attack the settlement. His overconfidence was certainly not justified by the state of the defences, which were inadequate and out of repair.

#### THE FALL OF CALCUTTA.

(Writing in October, 1756, shortly after the fall of Calcutta, Orme describes the conditions at the time of attack:—"The river Ganges forms a crescent between two points, the one called Perrin's Garden and the other Surman's Garden. The distance between these, along the river bank, measures about three and a half miles. In the deepest part of the crescent is the site of Fort William, a building which may an old house in the country exceeds in its defences. It is set a few paces from the riverside, on the bank of which runs a line of guns the whole length of the Fort from north to south. This is the only formidable part, as it is capable of annoying ships in the river. The ends of the line are joined to the two bastions of the Fort nearest the river by a garden wall, and a gate in each, which would resist one shot of a six-pounder but would be forced by a second. Opposite the two mentioned bastions are two others, inland to eastward, but within 30 yards to the north, and 40 yards to the south the bastions are commanded by large houses. To eastward, inland, the top of the church commands the



whole of the north and east ramparts. Northward and southward for the length of a mile, and eastward for about half a mile stand all the English houses, mostly separated from each other by large enclosures. Where the English habitations end to northward commence those of the principal Indian merchants, which reach quite up to Perrin's Garden. To the southward down to Surman's Garden, the houses belonging to a lower class are less conspicuous. Twelve years ago a ditch had been dug, beginning at Perrin's and carried inland of the town in a crescent with an intention to end at Surman's, but only 4 miles of it are finished. At Perrin's a drawbridge was made over the ditch. The south part of the town lay open. Lines, as well as the short time would admit, had been flung up between all the streets of the White Town which led to the Fort, and batteries were erected in the grand avenues to eastward, northward and southward."

The actual course of the ditch was an irregular line from where Chitpore Creek meets the river to the corner of Corporation Street and Lower Circular Road. It was provided with seven bastions. After a while it degenerated into an insanitary sewer, the depository of garbage. As such it was filled in by order of Lord Wellesley (1798-1805).

On June 16th word was received at Fort William from Ensign Paccard, stationed at Perrin's Redoubt, that the enemy were bringing up heavy cannon to attack that point. Lieutenant Blagg and forty men were sent out to reinforce him. The assault was repulsed with a loss of nine Europeans. The enemy, however, crossed the Ditch and entered Black Town without opposition. Here they

began to burn and pillage. Several thousand Portuguese and Armenians fled before them and sought shelter behind the walls of Fort William, where their presence greatly complicated the defence. The Nawab's army continued to advance, capturing one building after another. "Every inch of ground given they fixed their colours as is their custom." Soon the Park (Dalhousie Square) and tank were in their possession. Before this all lascars and coolies had deserted to the enemy. A Council of War, held at midnight on the 18th in Fort William, revealed that the ammunition was almost exhausted. At this it was suggested to retreat to the ships before the final means of salvation should be cut off. Such a measure would have secured the Company's treasure and every member of the garrison. Dawn came and nothing had been decided, although, indeed, the women and children were put on board, with the exception of a few wives who refused to leave their husbands.

Without warning anyone, the Governor quietly abandoned his post on the 19th. His example was followed by Captain Minchin, Commander of the garrison, and several others. After this the ships dropped downstream to Surman's, the present Hastings, leaving a hundred and seventy men and a few women and children to their fate. Where the vessels lay they could hear firing during the whole of that afternoon and the following day. Finally, on the evening of the 20th, the place was captured, thirty hours after Governor Drake had abandoned it. "All who wore red coats were cut to pieces without mercy. Such as were so unhappy as to be taken prisoners were at night put into the Black Hole, a place about 16 feet square, to the number of nearly

200 Europeans, Portuguese and Armenians, of whom many were wounded." Little wonder that only twenty-three were found alive when the guard opened the door in the morning. Among the survivors was Mrs. Carey, the fifteen-year-old wife of a sea-captain whose fate she had insisted upon sharing. The dead were carried out through the gate to east of the Fort, and flung into the ditch of an unfinished ravelin. Their grave is marked by the tall white obelisk in the north-west corner of Dalhousie Square, known as the Holwell Monument.

### ALINAGORE.

At 6 P.M. on the evening of June 20th Siraj-ud-Daulah made a State entry into the Fort. He was carried in a palanquin through the gate which lay to north-west, facing the river. He celebrated his triumph by changing the name of Calcutta to Alinagore, and causing the same to be proclaimed by beat of tom-tom. Furthermore he commanded certain buildings to be demolished and a mosque erected therefrom inside the Fort. This accomplished he withdrew to Murshidabad, deputing the government of Alinagore to the Faujdar of Hughli, a Hindu named Raja Manickchand. As for the survivors of the Black Hole, Holwell and three others were sent prisoners to Murshidabad. The remainder were warned to be clear of the place by sunset under penalty of forfeiting nose and ears.

### CALCUTTA RECAPTURED.

Upon learning that Fort William had fallen, Governor Drake and those with him proceeded downstream to Fulta. Their predicament was a sorry one. The

monsoon had broken. They were huddled together in boats and such rude thatch shelters as they could manage to construct. Shortage of provisions soon added to their sufferings and many died. Among the refugees was the widow of Captain J. Buchanan. He had perished in the Black Hole. His wife was a daughter of Colonel Scott, the Company's Chief Engineer. While at Fulta she married Warren Hastings, and died, in 1759, at Cossimbazar, where she was buried in the old graveyard of the Residency.

In August, 1756, news was received in Madras that Siraj-ud-Daulah had seized the English factories in Bengal and had perpetrated many cruelties, notably that of the Black Hole. Immediate retaliation was decided upon. Admiral Watson and the fleet were accordingly ordered to proceed to the Hughli. Stringer Lawrence was too old and war-weary to take command of the field forces, and so deputed Clive, who had recently been appointed Governor of Fort St. David. Fulta was reached on December 20th. Here Clive's troops landed on the east bank and marched to Calcutta, capturing the small fort of Budge-Budge on the way. Watson sailed up. At his approach the Nawab's garrison of 1,500 horses and 2,000 foot speedily retired. On January 2, 1757, the British flag was hoisted in Fort William. A Bengal Consultation of January 3rd records:—"Vice-Admiral Watson with His Majesty's Ships of War now delivers up the charge and possession of the Fort and town to us the President and Council as representatives for the Honourable East India Company. Agreed that we return Admiral Watson our thanks on behalf of the Honourable Company, ourselves and the inhabitants of

Calcutta.” An entry on the following day states:—  
 “Ordered that the Mosque built in the factory be demolished.”

Admiral Watson then proceeded to storm the important town of Hughli. Thereafter events moved rapidly. No sooner were the British in possession of Fort William than Clive started to raise defences. A ditch was dug round it, 30 feet wide and 12 feet deep, protected by palisades. The neighbouring buildings were demolished for a distance of 200 yards, and an esplanade and glacis constructed. The unfinished ravelin to east was converted into a fine battery. Other batteries were erected to north and south as well as on the waterside. All were provided with powerful guns. On January 28, 1757, Clive wrote to Madras:—“I may assure you, Fort William cannot be taken again by the Moors but by cowardice.”

Nor were political considerations neglected. A treaty was prepared for Siraj-ud-Daulah to sign. Among other clauses it stipulated that the Honourable Company should have power to fortify Calcutta within the limits of the Maratha Ditch. Moreover they were to be given possession of the thirty-eight villages ceded to them by imperial firman in 1717. Also, the Nawab was not to erect any forts below Calcutta, within a mile of the river-bank.

### CALCUTTA AGAIN MENACED.

Siraj-ud-Daulah collected a large army and marched to recapture Calcutta. His force included 18,000 horse, 15,000 foot, 10,000 pioneers, 40 pieces of heavy artillery drawn by oxen, and 50 elephants. Passing through Dum-Dum, now a small military cantonment eight miles east of Government House, his army encamped

outside the Maratha Ditch. His own headquarters were just within it, in the house at Halsi Bagan of the wealthy and notorious merchant, Omichand, of treaty fame. His line extended almost to Ballygunge.

Against this formidable array Clive mustered some 700 Europeans, exclusive of sailors and artillery, and about fifteen hundred sepoy, the name applied to the newly levied Indian fighting units. The term originated with the French in 1741. In that year fear of a Maratha attack upon Pondicherry led Monsieur Dumas, Governor of that place, to raise a mixed force of 4,500 Hindus and Muhammadans, chiefly the latter, and start to drill them. This was the beginning of those famous Cipayés, or Sepoys, who to-day form the Indian Army. The English followed the French example. They enlisted their first sepoy at Fort St. David, Cuddalore, after the fall of Madras, in 1746.

Clive decided not to await the Nawab's attack, but to attempt a night surprise. Accordingly he left a small garrison in Fort William and established an entrenched camp near Cossipore, where he posted a few Europeans and 300 sepoy. At 1 A.M. on February 5th he started at the head of a column, which included a marine detachment in charge of guns. A dense fog prevailed and they lost their way, with the result that they arrived at the Nawab's quarters in Omichand's garden, only to find themselves on the wrong side of the ditch. A causeway bridged the intervening gulf a little to south. This Clive attempted to seize but came under the fire of his own guns. As the fog lifted his forces were raked by two cannon, which the enemy had mounted on a small bastion overlooking the ditch. There was nothing for it but to

fight their way back to Fort William with a loss in killed of 12 sailors, 27 European soldiers and 18 sepoys. Other casualties amounted to over a 100.

The attack was so far effective that the Nawab withdrew from the neighbourhood of Calcutta. This was the prelude to a series of British victories. The outbreak of war between France and England provoked a combined naval and military attack, by Watson and Clive, upon Fort Orleans, Chandernagore. The French put up a gallant defence until utter exhaustion of ammunition rendered further resistance impossible. The place fell on March 23, 1757.

#### THE RED AND WHITE TREATIES.

(The immediate result of Watson's recapture of Calcutta was an immense increase of prestige to the Company. Thenceforward their claim to the settlement rested upon right of conquest. This legal aspect was confirmed by Sir Robert Chambers and Mr. Justice Hyde in 1782 :—  
“ We say the inhabitants of this town are called British subjects because this town was conquered by Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive, but that does not extend to subordinate factories.”

As the Company's power rose that of Siraj-ud-Daulah diminished. Soon intrigues were rife to depose him and elevate his uncle, Mir Jaffa, to the masnad of Murshidabad. A prominent part in these negotiations was played by Amin Chaund, the Omichand of English writers. He was a wealthy Calcutta merchant, and possessed the young Nawab's confidence. It was in his house that the Prince had made his headquarters when investing Calcutta, in February, 1757.)

Colonel Clive approved Mir Jaffa's cause. A treaty was prepared in May, 1757, under the terms of which, in return for English support, he was required to grant the Company certain privileges, among them:—"That our Bounds shall extend from Surman's Garden southward to Barnagur northward, and the lake eastward." Later concessions included those districts still styled the Twenty-four Pergunnahs, and the Panchannagram, or Fifty-five Villages.

Amin Chaund demanded thirty lakhs of rupees for his share in the transaction. This immense sum was to be made a special clause in the treaty with Mir Jaffa, who was to pay it when placed in possession at Murshidabad. By Clive's instructions two documents were accordingly prepared, one on white paper, the other on red. The former was genuine, whereas the latter, the famous Lal Kagaz, contained Amin Chaund's claim and was intended for his sole benefit. The deception was kept secret from Admiral Watson. His signature to the "Red Treaty" was forged by Clive's Secretary, a young writer of nineteen, who afterwards perished in the massacre at Patna.

### PLASSEY.

When negotiations with Mir Jaffa were satisfactorily concluded Clive marched to Plassey, about 20 miles from Murshidabad. Here Siraj-ud-Daulah was encamped with his army in a loop of the river. His force consisted of 50,000 infantry and 18,000 horse. The artillery was commanded by Monsieur St. Frais, a former member of the Chandernagore Council, who had fifty French gunners with him. The Nawab's fifty-two cannon made an



imposing show. Each, with its carriage, tumbril and artillery, moved slowly forward on a large wooden stage raised some six feet from the ground by high wheels, and drawn by a yoke of fifty bullocks. Specially trained elephants pushed behind. Against this multitude the English commander opposed 1,020 Europeans, including the 39th Regiment (Primis in Indis, now the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment) and two hundred Portuguese, as well as 2,120 sepoy. Eight five-pounder guns and a couple of small howitzers constituted the artillery, which was served by fifty sailors from Admiral Watson's fleet.

The first shots were exchanged at 8 A.M. Shortly after midday the traitor, Raja Durlabh Ram, urged Siraj-ud-Daulah to fly. This decided the fate of the battle. The loss on Clive's side was seven killed and thirteen wounded.

Although not a great victory, in a military sense, Plassey was of immense political significance. It established the English as masters in Bengal and laid the foundation of a brilliant future for Calcutta. The historical field is marked by a simple obelisk inscribed:—"Plassey, erected by the Bengal Government in 1833."

Clive made a State entry into Murshidabad and installed Mir Jaffa as Nawab of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. The luckless Siraj-ud-Daulah was seized at Rajmahal and put to death by Mirun Mir, Mir Jaffa's son. Next came the task of undeceiving Amin Chaund, and of informing him of the trick which had been played upon him by means of the substituted treaty.

### FRUITS OF VICTORY.

The rise of Calcutta dates from 1757. In return for the assistance afforded him, the newly created Nawab duly

affirmed the Company in zemindari rights yielding a revenue of Rs. 2,22,958. The mandate concluded with this exhortation:—"Know this, ye Zamindars . . . and others settled in Bengal, the Terrestrial Paradise, that ye are dependents of the Company and that ye must submit to such treatment as they give you, whether good or bad, and this is my express injunction."

Among other concessions a Mint was authorised in Calcutta, a privilege rigorously withheld up to date. Coins were struck in the name of the Delhi Emperor, still nominally the paramount power, until the reign of William IV. On July 6, 1757, a fleet of a hundred boats arrived downstream from Murshidabad laden with seventy-six lakhs of silver rupees. Forty more lakhs followed in six weeks. This immense sum was in compensation for the sack of Calcutta in the previous year. It was the richest prize in solid money ever received by the English nation up to that time. Reinforced by this treasure the merchants began to rebuild the ruined city. The old Fort was converted into a barrack. The present Fort William was started by Captain Brohier, the Company's Engineer from Madras, on lines sanctioned by Colonel Clive, in 1758. First, however, the village of Govindpur was cleared away. The inhabitants were awarded monetary compensation and land elsewhere.

In 1758 Sultan Muhammad Gohur, son of Alamgir II, Emperor of Delhi, invaded Behar. Patna was besieged. Clive marched to relieve it but the imperial troops withdrew before his arrival. Mir Jaffa expressed his gratitude for the service rendered by making Clive a personal gift of the annual quit-rent of three lakhs of

rupees paid to him for the Zemindari of Calcutta by the Company.

### PATNA.

Clive returned to England in 1760. After a brief interim, during which Holwell officiated, he was succeeded by Vansittart. The new Governor deposed Mir Jaffa in favour of that Nawab's son-in-law, Mir Kasim. In return for this service the latter assigned the Company the districts of Burdwan, Chittagong and Midnapore, thus relinquishing a third of the revenues of Bengal. The ex-Nawab, Mir Jaffa Ali Khan, an old man stricken with leprosy, requested permission to reside in Calcutta. A Consultation records:---“Mr. Hastings' house purchased for the reception of the Nawab.” A permanent result of his stay is the name Alipore, still borne by the neighbourhood. Meanwhile his successor effected a reconciliation with Shah Alam, the fugitive Emperor of Delhi. The two potentates met in the English factory at Patna. Here the Emperor duly conferred upon Mir Kasim the Governorship of Bengal, Behar and Orissa in return for an annual tribute of 24 lakhs of rupees. Thereafter Mir Kasim seized Patna, the Governor of which had not paid the stipulated dues for three years. Altogether his administration was marked by vigour and initiative. He strengthened his army and appointed Gurghin Khan, an Armenian, Commander-in-Chief. Furthermore he transferred his capital from Murshidabad to Munghir, where he established a fine arsenal and gun factory.

As in other parts of India, the greater portion of the revenue was derived from custom duties, or tolls levied

on goods passing from one district to another. This hampered trade but continued in force until 1835. The English Company evaded payment by negotiating a pescush of Rs. 3,000 a year in settlement of all claims. On presentation of a dustuck, signed by the President of Fort William, their goods were allowed to pass free. The Company's servants, however, were not exempt. After Clive's withdrawal to England these indulged more extensively in private commerce than ever and refused to pay any duty to the Nawab. Friction ensued. Mr. Ellis, Chief of the English Factory at Patna, seized that town. It was retaken by the Nawab's troops and the Englishmen arrested. One of their number, Mr. Amyatt, was killed. Upon this the Calcutta Council insisted upon immediate reprisals, although Vansittart and Warren Hastings were greatly opposed to anything of the kind under the circumstances. The majority carried the day. Old and ill though he was, Mir Jaffa was restored to his former position as Nawab. In July, 1763, Mir Kasim's troops were defeated at Cutwa. Six days later Murshidabad was stormed. Gheriah was another English victory, won on August 2nd. During this time Mir Kasim had remained quietly at Munghir but now determined to join his army in the field. First, however, he put to death a number of influential officials suspected of being favourably disposed to the English. Among these were Raja Rammarayen, former Governor of Patna, and Raja Rajbullub, ex-Naib of Dacca. The latter was executed with all his sons, including Kissendass, whose flight to Calcutta, in 1756, had led to the capture of that city and the tragedy of the Black Hole,

Mir Kasim's presence did not avert defeat and his army was forced to retire. During the retreat he caused his Armenian Commander-in-Chief to be put to death on suspicion of treachery. Finally he fell back upon Patna, where he ordered his English prisoners to be executed. None of his own officers would consent to slaughter defenceless men. A volunteer came forward in the person of Walter Reinhardt, a Swiss soldier of fortune, better known as Sumroo, from the nickname of *Le Sombre* applied to him, in earlier days, by his comrades owing to his sullen disposition and swarthy complexion. Later on he became ruler of the little State of Sirdhana. Sumroo and his men fell upon the captives as they were seated at dinner. They defended themselves with plates and bottles, but were all put to the sword, with the exception of Doctor Fullerton. Among the slain were three Members of Council, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Hay and Mr. Lushington. The last named was one of the few survivors of the Black Hole. Owing to his proficiency in Persian he had been appointed Secretary to Clive, in which capacity he had counterfeited Admiral Watson's signature on the famous "Red Treaty." He was a son of the vicar of Eastbourne, in which place a monument to his memory was erected in the parish church.

News of the massacre soon reached Calcutta. A day of fasting was observed and mourning was worn for a fortnight. Major Adams promptly stormed Patna, and the old Nawab, Mir Jaffa, was restored to his former position, but died in 1764. Meanwhile Mir Kasim had persuaded Shuja-ud-Daulah, Nawab-Wazir of Oudh, to take up arms in his cause. He also gained the ear of

Shah Alam, the Delhi Emperor. The British, however, followed up their success at Patna by a sweeping victory at Buxar. Both Shah Alam and Shuja-ud-Daulah were compelled to accept the conqueror's terms. By a treaty, dated August 12, 1765, the Company were granted the Dewani of Bengal, Behar and Orissa in perpetuity, upon consideration of an annual tribute of twenty lakhs of rupees, payable to the Delhi Emperor.

By this time Mir Jaffa was dead. He was succeeded by his son Najjan-ud-Daulah, a lad in his early teens, who readily consented to barter his sovereign rights in exchange for an annuity of fifty-three lakhs.

### LORD CLIVE.

In May, 1765, Clive returned to Calcutta as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Company's possessions in Bengal. While in England he had been elevated to the peerage of Ireland as Baron Clive of Plassey. Soon after arrival he negotiated the celebrated treaty just referred to. Thereafter he set himself the task of reorganising the administration of affairs in conformity with the vastly increased responsibilities assumed by the Company. He was met on all sides by fierce opposition. Abuses were rife under a system of small salaries and large perquisites. The Company's servants were, one and all, bent upon amassing considerable fortunes in the least possible time. These nouveaux riches were fast becoming notorious in English society, where they went by the nickname of Nabobs. The opportunities for acquiring wealth by underhand means are aptly illustrated by two celebrated examples, namely those of Ram Chand, the Governor's Dewan, and

of Nobkissen, the Company's Dubash, or Agent. Both received sixty rupees a month. The former left twelve and a half million rupees, and the latter is reputed to have spent nine lakhs of rupees on his mother's death. Clive declared that there were not five honest men left in Bengal. He realised, however, that the totally inadequate remuneration sanctioned by the Company was at the root of the evil. To remedy this he reserved for their servants the monopoly of the trade in salt, betel-nut and tobacco. The profits were to be divided in strict accordance with seniority.

### CHANGES.

Wealthy though Calcutta had become, sanitary conditions continued unsatisfactory. The crowded burial-ground lay in the heart of the city. In 1767 the historical cemetery in Park Street was opened. A year later the hospital overlooking the old graveyard was removed to the existing site to south of the Maidan. The Maratha Ditch had degenerated into an open sewer. Mrs. Kindersley wrote of the city, in 1768:—"The appearance of the best houses is spoiled by the little straw huts and such sort of encumbrances, which are built up by the servants for themselves to sleep in; so that all the English part of the town, which is the largest, is a confusion of very superb and very shoddy houses, dead walls, straw-huts, warehouses and I know not what . . . . About the middle of the town, on the river's edge, stands the old fort memorable for the catastrophe of the Black Hole, so much talked of in England. The fort is now made a very different use of, the only apology for a church is in some of the rooms in it, where divine

service is sometimes performed. In a distinct part of the town reside the Armenians and the people called Portuguese. The chief connection we have with these people is employing the women as servants, or the men as writers or cooks . . . . The new fort is an immense place on the river-side, about a mile below the town. If all the buildings, which are intended within its walls, are finished it will be a town within itself, for besides houses for the engineers and other officers, who reside at Calcutta, there are apartments for the Company's writers, barracks for soldiers, magazines for stores, etc. . . . ." In addition to their houses the English built themselves country residences. Clive had one at Dum-Dum. In 1763 Warren Hastings constructed a bridge across Tolly's Nullah to his mansion at Alipore, where he owned considerable property. Beautiful villas sprang up along the river-side to south, hence the name Garden Reach still applied to the locality.

These establishments gave employment to an immense number of servants, in addition to which numerous slaves were kept. Macrabe, brother-in-law of the celebrated Philip Francis, wrote of the latter's Calcutta residence:—"A hundred and ten servants to wait upon a family of four people." This immense staff was by no means unusual. All Anglo-Indians of the day boasted a vast retinue of table servants, fan-bearers, scullions, a chobdar, a combined mace-bearer and messenger, who preceded his master on all public occasions to clear the path; peons, who formed his bodyguard, palkee-bearers, who carried his palanquin, torch-bearers, who lighted him on his way, his barber, his hairdresser, his abdar, who cooled his wines, and his hookabardar, to whom was



entrusted the charge of his hookah and its skilful preparation with such savoury ingredients as tobacco, spices, molasses, and rose-water. Then there was his bearer, who acted as valet and confidential servant, and who accompanied him to breakfast and dinner parties, carrying the white linen jacket into which he changed after making his bow to his host in the formal broadcloth, which was considered *de rigueur*.

### SOCIAL CUSTOMS.

(Early rising was the rule in 18th century Calcutta, where the morning ride was a recognised institution. In the hot weather office hours were from 9 A.M. to midday. During the colder months the young civilian worked from 10 A.M. to 1-30 P.M. and again from 7-30 P.M. to 9 P.M. The only really busy time was when ships arrived from England. Dinner was a prodigious meal and was served at 2 P.M. Much wine was drunk. Four bottles constituted an average man's daily consumption. One bottle was considered correct for a lady. A servant armed with a large fan stood behind each chair. The meal over, the hookabardars advanced. Each laid a handsome square rug beside his master or mistress. On this the hookah rested resplendent in all the bravery of chased silver, pendent chains, silken cover and tassels, long silken pipe and richly wrought mouthpiece. No sooner was the glowing charcoal applied than opalescent clouds, fragrant and soothing, enveloped the smokers with a charmed atmosphere, under the influence of which exile, prickly heat and mosquitoes were alike forgotten.

From 4 to 5 P.M. all retired to rest and sleep off the effects of the heavy meal. Then followed the evening

airing, possibly the most important function of the day. Ladies drove their own phaetons, usually accompanied by a cavalier, of the poodle-faker variety, who lolled at his ease. A species of glorified umbrella, termed a roundelle, shaded the fair charioteer if her husband's rank admitted of the distinction. None below a factor's wife might aspire to such. A constitutional was indulged in on the ramparts of the old Fort, or a stroll among the trees of the Park surrounding the great tank in what is now Dalhousie Square. Later still the fashionable promenade was on the Rodentia, a tree-shaded avenue which stretched along the river between Chandpal Ghât and the new Fort. Dogs were prohibited within the area. Francis and similar high officials drove four horses. Others were carried in palanquins, termed palkees, an oriental version of the Sedan chair. These were brightly coloured and heavily gilt. The curtains and cushions were of rich brocade.

Tea or coffee was the next item on the day's programme. Thereafter formal calls were paid, of a few minutes' duration only. When a gentleman was asked to lay down his hat it meant an invitation to supper, which meal was served at 10 P.M. Dancing was a pastime much indulged in. Hunting, too, was popular. Cards and loo were much played. Whist was the favourite game. Everyone gambled, although the Honourable Company strictly forbade the practice. The Court of Directors had even gone so far as to order persons found guilty of risking more than ten pounds sterling at a sitting, to be arrested and sent to England. Apparently this rule was more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Philip Francis wrote to a friend in 1776:—"On one blessed

day of the present year of Our Lord I had won about £20,000 at whist."

Duels were frequent occurrences. These affairs of honour were usually settled under the shade of two trees which stood nearly opposite Alipore Bridge, and were known as the Trees of Destruction.

Most people kept their mourpunkeys, or snake-boats for river trips to Chandernagore and Suk Saugur. These were long, narrow vessels, rowed by a score or more oarsmen in brilliant livery, and steered by means of a snake-shaped oar in the stern. They were gaily coloured and gilt. Still more fantastic were the splendid State barges of the Governors. That of Lord Wellesley (1798-1805) was painted emerald green and lavishly gilt. For figurehead it had a glittering spread-eagle. A golden tiger guarded the stern. In the centre rose a vivid silken pavilion, while the crew were clad in scarlet and gold with pink pugarees.

Official functions were held in the morning. The King's birthday was a great occasion. The Governor gave a ball and supper, unless it happened to fall in the hot weather, when a public breakfast was the rule at 6-30 A.M. Prior to the time of Lord William Bentinck (1828-36) invitations were issued only to civil and military officers. On sitting down to table Lord Cornwallis (1786-93) was in the habit of exclaiming, "Coats off!"

Early in the 19th century 12 o'clock tiffin, or lunch, was introduced, and the dinner hour retarded until 7 P.M.

### THE FIRST GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Mr. Cartier resigned the Government in 1772. He was succeeded by Warren Hastings, a great man in the most

catholic sense of the term. The Company's affairs were in the utmost disorder. When, in 1765, the English obtained the Dewani of the three provinces they were without administrative experience. Their training was that of merchants, not of statesmen. They knew nothing of land revenue and allied matters, and accordingly they left these departments under Hindu control, as their Muhammadan predecessors had been content to do before them. Raja Setabhoy was appointed Dewan of Behar, with headquarters at Patna, where he is gratefully remembered as having introduced the culture of grapes and melons. Muhammad Reza Khan became Dewan of Bengal and resided at Murshidabad. Here the treasury was situated and all revenues paid. Mismanagement of affairs in Calcutta plunged the Company into debt, despite the imperial grant allotting them territories which brought in an annual revenue of two crores of rupees. At this crisis Warren Hastings assumed control, on April 13, 1772. He was forty years of age. In the following month the Council announced their intention of taking over the revenue department. The Khalsa, or Treasury, was transferred from Murshidabad to Calcutta. European tax-gatherers were established with the title of Collector. A committee, composed of four members of Council, toured the country with the object of negotiating permanent land settlements. Properties were put up to auction. Where the zemindar, or talukdar offered a reasonable sum he was confirmed in possession. Failing this he was given a pension and another put in his place. Simultaneously two law courts were established in each district, the one for criminal, and the other for civil

cases. Both were presided over by the Collector, assisted by local officials.

While these changes were being effected the Court of Directors in London were obliged to apply to the Ministry for financial assistance. Upon this the House of Commons appointed a Committee to enquire into the nature, state and condition of the East India Company. A secret committee was deputed to inspect the accounts. The report of these bodies advocated important alterations in the administrative policy. Consequently the Governor of Fort William was promoted Governor-General of the Company's territories with power over the senior presidencies of Madras and Bombay. A Supreme Council was created. It consisted of the Governor-General and four other members, who, with the Judges, were forbidden to indulge in private trade. In the same way all the Company's servants were prohibited from accepting presents, as bribes were politely termed.

The salary of the Governor-General was fixed at two and a half lakhs of rupees a year. Members of Council each received eighty thousand rupees. At the same time a Supreme Court was established in Calcutta, to which a Chief Justice was appointed, upon an annual salary of eighty thousand rupees, and three Puisne Judges, at sixty thousand each. These reforms were embodied in the first Act of Parliament ever passed relative to Indian affairs. They came into effect on August 1, 1774.

Warren Hastings was nominated Governor-General for five years. Despite his increased rank his powers were curtailed by making the vote of each Member of Council of equal value to his. By combining against him they were thus enabled to render his authority nil. This

speedily happened. Of the four Members appointed under the new Act only one knew anything about India. This was Mr. Richard Barwell, who belonged to the Bengal Civil Service. The other three were General Clavering, the hero of Guadeloupe, of whom Walpole wrote:-“He has come home crowned with more laurels than a boar’s head,” Colonel Monson, and the celebrated Philip Francis. Much comment was evoked by the appointment of the last named, whose former modest billet as head clerk at the War Office seemed hardly sufficient recommendation. Later on when Francis was identified as the mysterious “Junius,” author of a series of political letters which had caused a considerable flutter among official dovescotes, it was surmised that he owed his phenomenal rise of fortune to a desire to stop his pen, and get him as far out of the way as possible.

### ARRIVAL OF THE COUNCIL.

The three new Members of Council came out to India with their minds thoroughly prejudiced against the Company’s servants in general, and Hastings in particular. Nor were matters improved by their reception at Calcutta. Their vessel reached Hidgili, at the mouth of the river, on October 12, 1771. Here they transferred into budgerows. These took six days to bring them upstream as far as the present Botanical Gardens. At this point they were met by a State barge, which conveyed them the remaining three miles to the official landing-stage at Chandpal Ghât. As they stepped ashore the guns of Fort William thundered a salute. Jealous of their dignity, they listened and counted. After seventeen the firing stopped. This was an affront indeed ! An additional four would

have made all the difference. Even two more might have saved the situation. Francis, at least, never forgave Hastings. His brother-in-law, Macrabe, describes the arrival:—"The procession to the Governor's house beggars all description, the heat, the confusion, not an attempt at regularity. No guards, no person to receive us, or show the way, no state. But, surely, Mr. Hastings might have put on a ruffled shirt."

Apparently the party proceeded on foot to the Governor's residence, which stood near the west corner of Old Court House Street and Esplanade Row.

### THE JUDGES.

The newly appointed Judges of the Supreme Court came out at the same time but in a different vessel. They consisted of Sir Elijah Impey, the first Chief Justice of Calcutta, and three Puisne Judges, namely, John Hyde, Robert Chambers and S. C. Lemaistre. Their authority extended to Englishmen all over India, and was independent of the Company's Government; in a word, they were a law unto themselves. Their jurisdiction further embraced everyone, of whatsoever nationality, residing inside the Maratha Ditch and all persons, either directly or indirectly in the service of the Company, or of any British subjects. By this means Parliament had unwittingly erected two independent and rival powers, who speedily became actively hostile to one another. This unfortunate situation continued until 1780, when a new Act was passed limiting the jurisdiction of the court and defining its functions. In that same year the earliest Calcutta newspaper was published, on January, 29th. Four years later the Asiatic Society was founded with

Sir William Jones, a Judge of the Supreme Court, as its first President. His tomb is the loftiest of the many obelisks in Park Street Cemetery.

In 1784 Parliament passed what is known as Pitt's Bill, whereby a Board of Control was established for the better surveillance of affairs in India. All the members constituting the Board were appointed by the Crown. Their functions were political and administrative. As such they were strictly limited to territorial considerations. On the other hand, the Company's sphere of influence was defined as purely commercial.

Warren Hastings left Calcutta in 1785. His long period in office had been marked by considerable military activity. Oudh and Benares had both been dealt with. In Southern India war had been waged with Haider Ali, the Muhammadan General who had usurped control of the Hindu kingdom of Mysore. On the Bombay side the Company had been drawn into hostilities with the Marathas over the disputed succession of the rival Peshwas of Poona. On reaching England Hastings was immediately assailed by his many enemies, of whom Francis was the most relentless. In 1788 he was impeached by the House of Commons at the Bar of the House of Lords, charged with various crimes. The trial dragged on for seven years, finally ending with his acquittal, on April 23, 1795.

### PERMANENT LAND SETTLEMENT.

The disastrous friction between Warren Hastings and his Council led the Company to appoint the Marquis of Cornwallis as Governor-General, in 1786. They hoped that his high rank and military reputation would raise



him above the petty jealousies and spiteful attacks which had so hampered Hastings in all attempts to better the administration. The most important events to mark his tenure of office were the campaign against Tipu Sultan, whereby the Company acquired considerable increase of wealth and territory in Southern India, and the land settlement of Bengal and Behar. By the latter it was established that the zemindars, who had previously been mere collectors of the revenue, should be declared lords of the soil. On March 22, 1793, a proclamation assessed Bengal and Behar forever at Rs. 3,80,39,150 and Benares at Rs. 40,00,615.

To Lord Mornington, better known by his later title of Marquis of Wellesley, Calcutta owes many important improvements. He reached Fort William on May 13, 1798. In the following year he declared war upon Tipu Sultan, son and successor of Haidar Ali, the Muhammadan soldier of fortune who had usurped the throne of Mysore. On May 4, 1799, Seringapatam, the wealthy and powerful capital, was stormed and the Sultan slain. As a mark of appreciation of his services, in connection with the campaign, the Court of Directors bestowed a pension of Rs. 50,000 upon the Governor-General. Lord Wellesley started to build Government House, Calcutta, later raised to the dignity of Viceregal residence. Here was placed the ornate chair still referred to as Tipu Sultan's throne. In 1803 Lord Wellesley waged war successfully against the Maratha Chiefs, Holkar and Scindia. Delhi was occupied and the Moghul Emperor placed under the Honourable Company's protection with an annual pension of Rs. 50,000. Orissa was annexed to Bengal.

During the campaign the famous Juggernath temple at Puri was captured by British troops, on September 18, 1803.

These continuous military operations did not earn the approval of the Court of Directors. Lord Wellesley returned to England, and was violently attacked for his aggressive policy of conquest by the House of Commons. Even the Upper House joined in the general denunciation, led by Lord Moira who, curiously enough, undertook even more ambitious campaigns when, ten years later, he was appointed Governor-General.

### THE LOTTERY COMMITTEE.

In 1817 Government authorised the establishment of a Lottery Committee. The funds raised, by what is now considered a questionable method, were devoted to improving the town of Calcutta. Roads and paths were made across the Maidan and balustrades erected thereon. Tanks were excavated. Wellington and Cornwallis Squares were planned, and Surti, or Lottery, Bazar was built. The Committee continued in power until 1836.

1813 was a notable year in the annals of the Company. Their Charter expired and was only renewed on a modified basis. Their monopoly ceased and Europeans were free to travel in India and also to trade. Lord Moira was appointed Governor-General and speedily engaged in war with Nepal. The first campaign was a failure. The second, however, was a complete success, under General Ochterlony, the American-born sepoy leader whose tall white monument dominates the Maidan. As a result Lord Moira became the Marquis of Hastings.

Simla was ceded to the Company. Lord Amherst (1823-28) was the first Governor-General to spend a hot weather there. His example was followed by Sir John Lawrence in 1864, since when the annual summer exodus of the Government of India to Simla has become an established rule. Lord Hastings also went to war with the Marathas, the only formidable power which remained. The Peshwa of Poona was effectually defeated at the battle of Kirkee, on November 5, 1817. Thereafter he retired from the political arena as a pensioner of the Company. In similar fashion Holkar, and the Raja of Nagpur were deprived of authority.

Although the ten years of his administration were marked by an important series of military campaigns, Lord Hastings devoted much attention to Indian education and the founding of schools. With him originated the term Eurasian, now universally applied to persons of mixed European and Asiatic descent.

In 1854 the lower provinces were separated from the remainder of Bengal. Sir F. Halley was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the newly formed district. His official residence in Calcutta was Belvedere House, the large and imposing mansion occupied by Sir Edward Paget as Commander-in-Chief. Shortly afterwards the last king of Oudh was deposed. He was allotted a pension and required to leave Lucknow, the royal capital of his line, and reside at Garden Reach, immediately to south of Calcutta. In the following year the Mutiny broke out, provoked by a false report that the cartridges served out to the sepoy were greased with the fat of hogs, animals regarded with loathing by Muhammadans as unclean. The ammunition in question was manufactured

at Dum-Dum, eight miles to east of Government House, Calcutta.

This rumour may have fanned the flame, but the real cause of trouble was undoubtedly dissatisfaction at the dethronement of Wazir Ali. With the suppression of the Mutiny, in 1858, the sovereign rights of the Company were taken over by the British Government in the name of Queen Victoria. At the same time Calcutta superseded Delhi as capital of India. It continued such until December, 1911, when the King-Emperor, George V, restored Delhi to its former position as the official headquarters of the Government of India. Upon this it seemed as though the connection of future Viceroys with Calcutta would be limited to brief ceremonial visits similar to those paid to the other great presidency towns. Calcutta, however, continues a privileged city. Lord Chelmsford has established the Viceregal precedent of spending at least one month of the cold weather here. His official residence is at Belvedere House.

### USEFUL INFORMATION.

Visitors from overseas come right up to Calcutta by steamer, where they land at one of the many ghâts lining Strand Road, usually the Outram. A considerable amount of cargo discharges at Kidderpore Docks. The new arrivals are met by taxicabs, gharis, a species of victoria, office jauns (closed wooden, box-like conveyances), and bullock-carts. The last mentioned convey luggage. A few rickshaws are also in attendance.

Travellers by either the East Indian Railway or the Bengal-Nagpur line alight at Howrah, immediately to

north of Calcutta, whence it is separated by the River Hughli. The two are connected by Howrah Bridge, completed in 1874. It is 1,528 feet long, and is traversed by two side-walks and a roadway 45 feet wide. The central portion is movable to allow of ships passing up and down stream. As a result the bridge is closed to traffic for a certain period every day. The time varies according to the tide and is notified in the public press. Trams are not allowed across. Railway time, both at Howrah and Sealdah, is twenty minutes behind ordinary standard time.

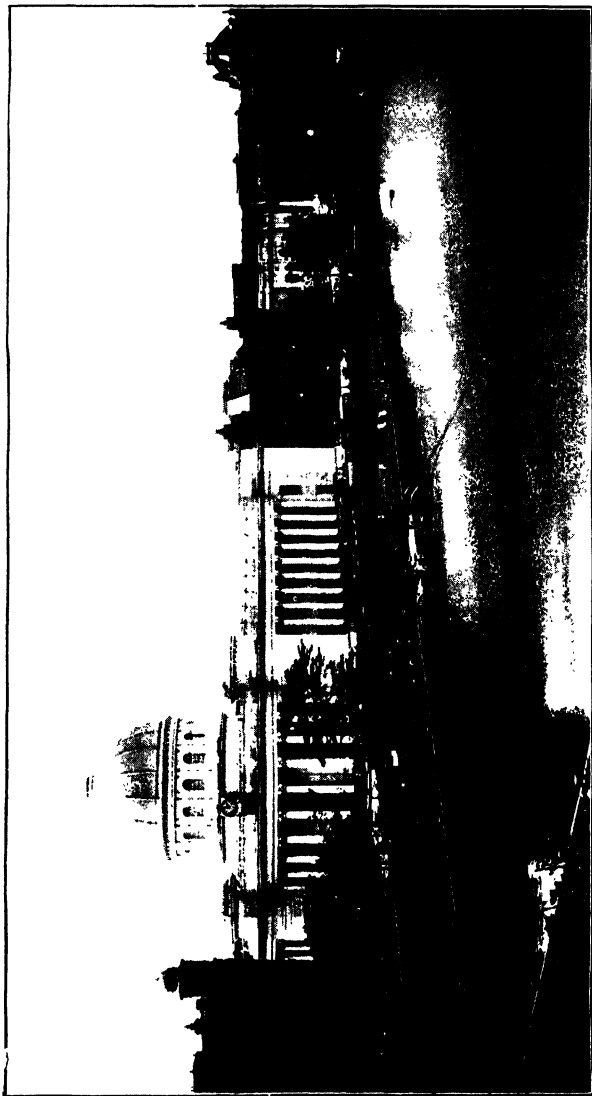
The terminus of the Eastern Bengal Railway is on the Calcutta side of the river, at Sealdah, near the famous Baithakhana once marked by the pipal tree associated with Job Charnock. The station lies a little to east of Lower Circular Road and is the point of departure for Darjeeling, Shillong, etc. Travellers bound for Mount Everest change at Siliguri into the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway.

The office of the Commissioner of Police is in Lall Bazaar Street, a turning off the north-east corner of Dalhousie Square.

### ✕ FERRIES.

The neighbourhood is well provided with ferries. The Port Commissioners control the service within their jurisdiction, the limits of which are defined by a northern boundary pillar at Chusuri, beyond the Central Jute Mills, and a second, in the south, at Bauria, a little above the Lawrence Jute Mills. In addition to ferries the Commission controls steamers which ply regularly between Chandpal Ghât and Kidderpore Docks, on the Calcutta side, and Telkal Ghât, Ramkristnapur,





*To face page 61.*

**DALHOUSIE SQUARE.**

Showing the famous Lall Dighi or Red Tank, the site of old Fort, William,  
the Black Hole, and Holwell's Monument.

*Photo by Johnston and Hoffmann.*

Sibpur and Shalimar on the Howrah bank. The fares charged are very small.

Private enterprise is responsible for various steamship services which ply daily to places above and below Calcutta. Favourite trips are from Chandpal Ghât to Rajgunge and Uluburia, respectively, from Armenian Ghât to Chatal, in Midnapore District, and from Ahiritola Ghât to Kalna viâ Bally.

### BUSINESS HOURS.

Probably no city in India begins work so late in the day as Calcutta. Few, if any, public buildings open before 10 A.M. and it is the same with offices. Strangers will do well to make a note of this and plan their programme accordingly.

*Distances are measured from Government House.*

### ITINERARY. ✕

FIRST DAY . . . . . MORNING.

Visit Dalhousie Square, known to taxi-drivers and others as Lall Dighi. Proceed to Council House Street. See the Commercial Museum and St. John's Church. Note 7, Hastings Street and Government House. Go southward viâ Government Place to Esplanade Row, West, the TOWN HALL and HIGH COURT. Visit EDEN GARDENS.

### DALHOUSIE SQUARE. ✕

Literally as well as figuratively Dalhousie Square is the heart of Calcutta. Around it cluster many of the principal Government and business offices in the city, while practically all are in close proximity. Every inch is historic ground. Here Job Charnock and his



companions first established their settlement. The tank in the centre provided them with drinking water, and the cutcherry, erected on its bank by the Zemindar, was the repository of their records. Close by stood an ancient Hindu temple, the presiding deity of which was worshipped with curious rites until transferred to the shrine of the tutelary goddess at Kalighat. On its western side Sir John Goldsborough traced out the lines of the mud walls of the factory destined to play so eventful and tragic a rôle as Fort William. To south flowed the Creek crossed by three bridges, and to north rose the tall slender spire of St. Ann's, the first English church erected in Calcutta. The site is now occupied by the Bengal Legislative Council Chamber.

The Square takes its modern name from the Earl of Dalhousie, whose period of office as Governor-General expired in 1856, just a year prior to the Mutiny. To taxi-drivers and others it is known as Lall Dighi, or the Red Tank, from the ancient reservoir in the middle. Earlier still it was styled Lall Bagh, the Red Garden. The first English merely called it The Green. A more fashionable age transformed this into The Park, or Tank Square.

There is nothing in the modern aspect of Dalhousie Square suggestive of romance, nor would the stranger ever imagine that it had once been a battle-field, where a handful of desperate men contested every inch of ground, the scene illuminated by the grim light of burning houses. No traces of those days now remain. In the centre stretches a well ordered garden of somewhat stereotyped design. Lawns, flower-beds, straight walks and trees surround the stone tank of many memories. To

north, looking on to the street, are three statues of Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal. The large equestrian monument in the middle is by Frampton, and portrays Sir John Woodburn (1898-1902). To east is Sir Stuart Colvin Bayley (1872-77), by Thorneycroft, and to west a statue, by Boehm, of Sir Ashley Eden (1877-82), who is depicted in a seated posture. He was a younger son of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who succeeded to the barony of Auckland on the death of his brother, the first Earl, Governor-General of India from 1836 to 1842. The east side displays yet another statue of a Lieutenant-Governor, namely, Sir A. H. Leith Fraser (1903-08). Beyond the iron railing of the Garden is a pointed obelisk commemorating Colsworthy Grant, founder of the Calcutta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The garden is usually thronged with a crowd of the picturesque type so attractive in the eyes of strangers. The strident cawing of crows mingles with the din of traffic as trams, bullock-wagons, buffalo-carts, motors and gharis pass and repass in never-ending procession.

### GENERAL POST OFFICE.

On all four sides the Square is overlooked by high buildings. Quite the most oriental in appearance is the large white edifice to west, dome-crowned and further embellished by handsome flights of steps, deep verandahs and smooth lofty columns distinguished by Corinthian capitals. This is the General Post Office, designed by Granville, Architect to the Government of India, in 1864, and completed four years later. Immediately to north of it stretches the Collectorate, a big brick structure

containing a number of Government Offices. Further still is the Custom House and, finally, East Indian Railway House. These four cover the site of the Company's factory, best known as Old Fort William. Explanatory marble tablets and lines of brass, in the adjacent pavement, convey an idea of the position and nature of the eastern defences, which, from a historical point of view, were the most interesting and significant.

### OLD FORT WILLIAM.

The walls of the vanished stronghold were traced out by Sir John Goldsbrough late in 1693. Nevertheless three years elapsed before the merchants ventured to begin building. Their pretext for doing so was the insurrection of Raja Sobha Sing, and the consequent necessity of protecting themselves and their wares against possible attack. The Nawab of Bengal seems to have winked at, rather than sanctioned, their activities. Mr. Charles Eyre, son-in-law of Charnock, was Agent at the time. Shortly afterwards the merchants procured a *nishan*, or imperial warrant from Prince Azim-us-Shan, entitling them to be regarded as landlords of the three villages of Sutanuti, Calcutta and Govindpur. Permission to fortify was still withheld.

The Court of Directors wrote from London desiring their factory should take the form of a pentagon. This the merchants considered would present too military an appearance. From prudential motives they decided to adhere to a square. In 1699 Bengal was declared a separate Presidency, independent of Madras. The unfinished Fort was named William after the reigning King of England. By this time the south-east bastion and

adjacent wall were in place. Eyre was knighted and retired in 1700. He was succeeded by John Beard. The new President built the north-east bastion in 1701. In the following year he began the factory, or Government House described by the much travelled Alexander Hamilton as "The best and most regular piece of architecture ever seen in the East." The Rotation Government, consisting of a Council of eight presided over, alternate weeks, by two Chairmen, assumed power in 1704. They completed the Factory House and hastily constructed the two western bastions upon the death of Aurangzib Shah, in 1707. They also built St. Ann's Church, on the northern side of Dalhousie Square, consecrated on Ascension Day, 1709. The three next Presidents, Anthony Weldten, John Russell and Robert Hedges, completed the fort by 1716. The first mentioned put up the river wall in front of the stronghold and made the wharf, which was faced with brick and protected by a breastwork and line of guns mounted in embrasures of solid masonry. Here sentinels were placed at night. A Bengal letter, dated December 10, 1712, reports :—

"The wharf is finished but not the breastwork on it. The strong landing-stage and the crane at the end of it, which will work at all times of the tide, are nearly done. Within the Fort all that remains is a little work on one of the curtains with the construction of a broad walk round the walls, and the repair of the Long Row, or central range of lodgings running from the east to the west curtain." To this the Court of Directors replied in 1713. They complained of the plan selected as making "A very pompous show to the waterside by high turrets

and lofty buildings but having no real strength, or power of defence."

Viewed by passing vessels, Fort William was a stately pile with its broad ramparts and pointed corner bastions. High above all rose the Factory, a palatial edifice. It occupied the southern portion of the enclosure. On the east it formed three sides of a quadrangle. The lower storey displayed a projecting arcaded verandah. The main building measured 265 feet from north to south. The great doorway occupied the centre of the river face. Its threshold was on a level with the roof of the colonnade that ran down to the Water Gate and wharf. Steps led up to the grand portico. To left lay the hall and principal rooms. The Governor was allotted quarters in the south-east wing.

The interior of the Fort enclosure was divided into northern and southern sections by the Long Row, containing the damp, ill-ventilated lodgings of the Company's junior employés. The two were connected by a narrow passage. The southern portion was considerably larger. To west it was entered by the Water Gate. A second gate opened into "the Great Avenue to Eastward," now prosaically styled Dalhousie Square, North. This gate projected and was defended by five guns.

In shape the Fort was an irregular tetragon. The north side measured 340 feet, the south 185 feet, and the east and west 710 feet each. The corner bastions mounted ten guns apiece and were linked by curtains 4 feet thick and 18 feet high formed of thin tile bricks firmly cemented together. Captain Alexander Hamilton describes the process:—"Fort William was built of brick and mortar called puckah, which is a

composition of brick dust, lime, molasses and cut hemp, and when it becomes dry is as hard and tougher than stone." The southern side skirted Koila Ghât Street. Here, in 1741, Governor Braddyl erected a very large warehouse, which completely filled in the space between the eastern and western bastions, and projected about 120 feet to south. By this means the curtain was converted into an inner wall and further weakened by a door broken through it to the interior of the Fort. The eastern front commanded Dalhousie Square, while the north side ran along Fairlie Place. The original Import and Export warehouses lay inside the south wall. All the curtains were lined with arcaded chambers and inner verandahs, the roofs of which formed the ramparts.

The northern section of the Fort was the smaller of the two and contained a magazine for arms, military stores, laboratory, pharmacy, smith's shop and the like. Its western wall was pierced by a small postern gate inside of which stood the flagstaff.

### THE BLACK HOLE.

A Minute dated 1717 records:—"Will build two small rooms on arches of east gate for military officers to lie in." Nothing in the simple wording of the entry foreshadowed the sinister use to which one of these rooms was destined to be put in the years to come.

To right and left of the projecting east gate the interior of the curtain was lined by double rows of arcaded cloisters. The pillars of the inner row were eight feet nine inches apart. The distance between the outer arches forming the verandah was eleven feet three inches. The first four arches of the inner line to south were converted

into the Court of Guard. The next nine were used as barracks and consisted of three connecting apartments. These and the Court of Guard were separated from the verandah by a low parapet wall. Beyond, again, was the military prison known as the Black Hole. It comprised two arches, the fourteenth and fifteenth, and was completely bricked up with the exception of a pair of small heavily barred windows overlooking the piazza to west. Entrance was by means of a door, which opened inwards, from the barracks. The interior space measured fourteen feet by eighteen feet. Part of this was taken up by a wooden platform, six feet wide, which ran along the back wall of both barracks and prison about three feet from the ground. It was the sleeping-place. Immediately south of the Black Hole a slanting staircase, described as fifty feet long, led to the south-east bastion.

When news reached Calcutta, on 7th June, 1756, that Siraj-ul-Daulah was approaching at the head of a great army, it was decided not to concentrate within the Fort but to give battle outside. Accordingly a battery was hastily constructed to north-east of Dalhousie Square, near the site of St. Andrews' Church. A second commanded the Creek about where Hastings Street, Council House Street and Government Place meet. A third was on the river bank near the foot of what is now Clive Ghât Street. Peons and burkundazes armed with muskets were posted at the Maratha Ditch, but promptly deserted to the enemy. Meanwhile appeals for help had been despatched to Fort St. George, Madras. Armed assistance was also asked of the Dutch at Chinsurah, and the French at Chandernagore. The Dutch replied that they were numerically too weak to render such service. The

French offered to receive the merchants at Fort Orleans, which was in a far better state of defence than Fort William. Upon this the English in Calcutta realised that they must rely upon themselves. All told, their garrison numbered 250 men, including Portuguese, Eurasians and a very gallant French officer named le Beaume. The 80 English soldiers and gunners were without fighting experience. They had chiefly acted as sentries varied by convoy duty. All inhabitants capable of bearing arms were hastily formed into a Militia, stiffened by such sailors as could be spared from the ships. This brought the strength of the defenders up to 515. Roger Drake, the President, was a young man of thirty-four, and characteristically unfitted to deal with an emergency of the kind.

On June 16th an attack was launched against Perrin's Point, an outpost at the north-westerly extremity of the Company's bounds, strongly guarded by the guns of the merchantmen "Prince George," "Fortune" and "Chance." The invaders were driven off but crossed the Maratha Ditch lower down, and began to sack and burn Black Town. At the first alarm the European women and children fled into the Fort, where they set to work to manufacture cartridges. Upon suspicion of communicating with the Nawab, Amin Chaund, a wealthy Calcutta merchant was arrested and confined in Fort William. Very soon several thousand Portuguese and Armenians likewise sought refuge behind its walls, adding to the general confusion, and embarrassing the defence. On the morning of the 18th the battery to north-east was carried, or rather it was abandoned as untenable by Captain Clayton, Mr. Holwell and the three subalterns



in charge. St. Ann's Church was a fortified post and held out stubbornly. On the evening of the 18th the Company's treasure and books were sent on board the ships, as were many of the women and children. A council of war, convoked at midnight, revealed the alarming fact that the ammunition was almost exhausted. The next morning, soon after 10 o'clock, President Drake quietly abandoned the Fort. He was accompanied by Captain Minchin, Commander of the garrison, Captain Grant, the Adjutant-General, and Lieutenant O'Hara of the train. They withdrew down stream with the fleet, leaving the defenders of Fort William to their fate.

The sudden departure of the ships caused consternation among the garrison. Holwell restored order by promising to divide three chests of treasure, and solemnly guaranteeing that he would be the last to leave the Fort. At this he was unanimously elected to supreme command. The following morning the enemy delivered three assaults. The two first were against the north-west bastion and the third against the windows of the laboratory in the east curtain. By the afternoon of the 20th many buildings inside the Fort were in flames. At about 4 P.M. the enemy signalled a truce. Instantly the firing ceased. Holwell advanced to the south-east bastion and threw over a letter addressed to Rao Durlabh, the General in command. At this the enemy swarmed close up to the walls. Simultaneously the principal river gate was betrayed. "All who wore red coats were cut to pieces without mercy." Holwell refused to deliver up his sword except in the presence of the Nawab. Accordingly he was led round the ramparts to where Siraj-ud-Daulah waited outside in a litter. Holwell yielded his weapon

and the Nawab made a state entry through the small northern gate in the west wall. At a subsequent interview he promised Holwell that no harm should come to him, or the other prisoners.

The survivors, to the number of a hundred and forty-six, were assembled on the verandah in front of the barracks. They were of various nationalities and included several women and children. Here they were huddled together looking towards the setting sun. In front of them, on the parade ground, were five hundred gunmen with lighted torches. Guards were posted over them to left and right. The air was heavy with smoke and sparks from the burning buildings. After a while they were ordered into the barracks. From there they were forced into the Black Hole by men armed with muskets, clubs and drawn scimitars. It was just 8 P.M. The horrors of that night can better be imagined than described. Crushed together, stifled by smoke, scorched by the hot breath of flaming buildings, the thirst maddened victims shrieked for water. The guards endeavoured to force some through the iron bars. In the scramble that ensued many were trampled to death. When the door was opened at 6 P.M. there were only twenty-three survivors. The bodies of those who perished were dragged through the great east gate leading into Dalhousie Square, and flung into the ditch of the unfinished ravelin opposite.

Later on, when Calcutta was reconquered by Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive, Mr. Holwell erected a tall, pointed obelisk of brick and plaster upon the spot. He added an inscribed tablet detailing the event and the names of the victims. He ascribed his own preservation to the expedient of sucking ~~his perspiration~~ <sup>his perspiration</sup> soaked shirt.

The site of the Black Hole is immediately to north of the General Post Office, in a passage entered from Dalhousie Square through an iron gateway. Here a small railed-off enclosure, backed by the brick wall of the Collectorate, is paved with black marble. Into this incredibly small space a hundred and forty-six human beings were crushed on the night of June 20, 1856, owing to the stupidity of the guards, who were given no specific orders but merely told to keep the prisoners in a safe place. When Holwell shouted through the iron bars of the window requesting that Siraj-ud-Daulah might be informed of their plight, he was told that the Nawab was sleeping and must not be disturbed.

A good model of Old Fort William is included in the Victoria Memorial collection stored in the grounds of Belvedere.

### HOLWELL'S MONUMENT.

This tall white obelisk stands on an octagonal pedestal near the north-west corner of Dalhousie Square, opposite the Collectorate. Originally erected by Zachariah Holwell as a tombstone over the one hundred and twenty-three victims of the Black Hole, it was not kept in repair. The plaster peeled off and the bricks crumbled. The unsightly ruin was demolished in 1821. Later on a gas-lamp marked the spot. This gave place to Boehm's statue of Sir Ashley Eden, subsequently removed inside the garden of the Square. The Black Hole, Holwell and his monument were in danger of being engulfed in the abyss of oblivion when Lord Curzon was appointed Viceroy of India. On the voyage out he read Doctor

Busteed's fascinating book "Echoes of Old Calcutta." This aroused his enthusiasm, with the result that he presented the city with a white marble replica of the vanished obelisk, which he unveiled on December 19, 1902.

At the corner of the big red brick Collectorate, to west of the monument, a marble tablet bears the inscription :—" 16 feet behind this wall was the entrance to the east gate of Old Fort William, through which the bodies of those who perished in the Black Hole were brought out and thrown into the ditch of the ravelin on June 21, 1756."

Holwell was born in Dublin in 1711. His father was a London timber merchant whose family had been ruined by fidelity to the Stuart cause. When twenty-one years of age young Holwell came out to India as Surgeon's mate in an Indiaman. In 1742 he was appointed surgeon at Fort William. Seven years later he returned from a voyage to England as youngest in Council. His post was no sinecure for it combined the offices of Zemindar and Judge. Upon Clive's departure, in 1760, he acted as President until relieved by Vansittart. Apparently his old age was spent in poverty.

### THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

Siraj-ud-Daulah demolished several buildings in the Fort. With the ruins he erected a mosque, which was immediately pulled down upon the recapture of Calcutta, in January 1757. After this the stronghold reverted to its former use, but its day was done. The river was receding from its water gate, and a new fort was springing up to the south, at Govindpur. In 1759 the factory

was transferred outside and the place converted into barracks. Clive's officers were assigned quarters in the Long Row, formerly occupied by the Company's Writers, or Clerks. St. Ann's Church having been burnt down during the siege, the space between the east gate, of the old fort, and the Black Hole was made into St. John's Chapel, in 1760. Thereafter the abandoned stronghold served as Custom House. Much of the northern portion was pulled down to make room for modern edifices. On February 9, 1819, the foundation-stone of the existing Custom House was laid by Lord Hastings with elaborate masonic ceremonies. It is a substantial, white building, two storeys high, at the north-west corner of Dalhousie Square. The spacious compound lies to north, and is entered by an iron gate facing Clive Street. Inside are other edifices and three white marble wall-tablets. The first is inscribed:—"To west of this tablet extended the range of buildings called the Long Row, which contained the lodgings of the Company's Writers and divided the old Fort into two sections."

Penetrating further into the tree-shaded enclosure, a second memorial slab indicates the northern limits of the Factory House. These are clearly marked out by lines of brass let into the brick pavement. The compound goes through to the Strand. On the north it is overlooked by the big offices of the East Indian Railway Company.

### CHARNOCK PLACE.

This is the name applied to the west side of Dalhousie Square, from the General Post Office, at the corner of Koila Ghât Street, to Clive Street.

### BENGAL SECRETARIAT.

The offices of the Bengal Secretariat monopolise the great three-storeyed block which stretches along the northern side of Dalhousie Square, from Clive Street to Lyons Range. This immense edifice is still best known by its old name of Writers' Buildings. A statue of Britannia, the royal arms, in brilliant yellow, and a row of classical columns adorn the façade above the central entrance. The roof displays four allegorical groups of three figures each. From west to east, these typify Science, Agriculture, Commerce and Justice.

Originally the front was plain to bareness excepting for the already mentioned pillars. In those days Writers' Buildings provided quarters for all the Honourable Company's junior employés in receipt of less than three hundred rupees a month.

Until its destruction in 1756, St. Ann's Church occupied the site of the present Council Chamber in Writers' Buildings. From that date it, and the adjoining ground, remained vacant, until 1776, when both plots were assigned to Thomas Lyon, who undertook to erect suitable lodgings thereon for the Company's Writers. Apparently Lyon acted as Agent in the transaction for Richard Barwell, the First Member of Council, who, with Warren Hastings constituted the famous minority, as against the hardly less celebrated majority of Clavering, Monson and Francis. The last named mentions Writers' Buildings in his journal under the date 1780 :—"Mr. Barwell's house taken for five years by his own vote. Mr. Wheler and I declare we shall not sign the lease."

Writers' Buildings contained nineteen sets of apartments. The monthly rental of each suite was two

hundred Arcot rupees, so that Barwell made a good thing by letting them on a long lease to the Company. For half a century they continued to provide the juniors with accommodation. During this time the place acquired notoriety for the lavish orgies held under its roof. Lord Valentia wrote of the practice in 1803:—"The extravagant parties and entertainments frequent among them generally involves them in embarrassments and difficulties at an early period in their lives."

When the privilege of free lodgings was withdrawn the building was let out as offices and private rooms. Eventually the present decorative façade and fantastical roof were added. Extensive blocks were erected in the rear, and the edifice, which is one of the oldest in Calcutta, entered upon a fresh lease of life as the Bengal Secretariat.

### ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

St. Andrew's Church stands in the north-east angle of Dalhousie Square, between Lyons Range and Lall Bazaar Street. From this vantage point it commands an uninterrupted vista up old Court House Street to the Maidan, hence it happens that the glistening white building, with the glittering gilt cock crowing defiance from the steeple-top, is one of the most familiar landmarks in the city. There is a subtle suggestion about that ancient bird. Intuitively the stranger feels that it is no ordinary weathercock.

Prior to 1818 Calcutta did not boast a Scottish Kirk. Divine worship was held in the old College, formerly the Exchange. Earlier still it was conducted in the Asiatic Society's hall. In 1814 Doctor James Bryce, the

Presbyterian minister, and Doctor Middleton, the first Anglican bishop in India, were fellow passengers on the voyage out. Tradition avers that the two learned theologians relieved the tedium of the long days on shipboard by heated and somewhat acrimonious debates. Matters reached a climax when the bishop averred that a spire was the exclusive prerogative of the Church of England. To this Doctor Bryce replied that he would build a kirk, which should have a spire that would soar high above the steeple of St. John's Cathedral. Moreover, he would place a cock upon the summit to crow over the bishop. He was as good as his word. Report avers that out of deference to the prelate's wounded susceptibilities Government directed the Public Works Department not to repair the provoking bird. Despite this fiat the cock has maintained its exalted post for over a century.

The foundation-stone of the kirk was laid on St. Andrew's Day, November 30, 1815. The Countess of Loudoun and Moira, wife of the Governor-General, afterwards created Marquis of Hastings, was present in state. The ceremony was made the occasion of impressive masonic, military and civil display. The church was consecrated on March 8, 1818. From being the habitual place of worship of Lady Hastings, who was a Scottish peeress in her own right, the kirk grew to be styled "The Lat Sahib ki Girja." It was built by Messrs. Burn, Currie and Co. Government gave the site, then valued at Rs. 30,000, and a lakh of rupees. In 1830 the carriage entrance to north was subscribed for by the congregation. Five years later the clock was placed in the tower at a cost of Rs. 1,700. The original euharmonic



organ was superseded by a far finer instrument in 1858.

The main entrance is to south, a handsome portico, supported by lofty Doric columns at the top of a flight of steps. Immediately inside, to east, is the vestry. It contains a full-length portrait of Doctor James Bryce, the first minister (1814-36), painted by Sir James Watson Gordon. This picture came out in the ill-fated "Protector," lost off the Sandheads in October, 1833. The case in which it was packed was one of the few objects subsequently recovered from the wreck. A companion portrait, on the other side of the door, is that of the Reverend Doctor J. Charles, 1832-47. The floor of the church is grey marble. A wide aisle leads between twelve smooth pillars and curved pews to a lofty and beautifully carved pulpit of polished wood. Below is the Communion table. To right is a white marble font, and above is the organ and encircling gallery. Mural tablets line the walls, which are pierced with a double row of clear-glass windows.

The affairs of the church are controlled by the Kirk Session, a body of elders presided over by the minister. With Bombay and Madras, they share the privilege of representation at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland annually convened in Edinburgh.

### THE OLD COURT HOUSE.

The site now occupied by St. Andrew's is of considerable interest historically. Here stood the old Court House, where Nuncomar was tried. It was demolished in 1792. The ground remained vacant until 1815, when Government gave it for the erection of the kirk. The

Court House was a fine, double-storeyed edifice, enclosed by a verandah and the customary pillars. The lower floor was reserved for the Court. Above were two rooms where balls, breakfasts, lotteries and public functions generally were held. On their walls hung portraits of the King and Queen of France, captured at Chandernagore. The building likewise served as Town Hall.

A Minute in the Company's records of 1729 states that the Ambassador's House, wherein distinguished guests had been entertained, had newly been converted into a Mayor's Court and Court of Oyer and Terminer. The compound was appropriated as Town Gaol. Upon the approach of Siraj-ud-Daulah, in 1756, three batteries were hastily constructed across the main roads leading to Fort William. The strongest ran from the Mayor's Court to the Park. It was defended by 93 men and five officers, of whom Holwell was one.

In the days when the Mayor dispensed justice he did so in the full splendour of states robes and chain of office, seated on a velvet cushion, attended by ten Aldermen. Prisoners were conveyed to gaol in a wooden cage perforated with air-holes, and suspended from the axle of a tumbril, the wheels of which were 14 feet high. A guard of sepoy's acted as escort to this grotesque carriage. Minor offences were corrected by gentle methods such as slippering and the rattan. Hardened offenders were condemned to lose an ear, or else to be branded on one cheek and deported to the other bank of the river. The pillory was introduced from England. Miscreants were publicly whipped from the pillory in Lall Bazaar to Bow Bazaar and back. Runaway slaves were severely dealt with.

## TRIAL OF NUNCOMAR.

This was the most sensational trial ever held in India. It was presided over by Sir Elijah Impey, the Chief Justice, assisted by two judges and a jury. Nuncomar, or Nundu Kumar, was a wealthy and powerful Brahmin. He wielded extensive influence at the Court of Murshidabad as well as with the Government in Calcutta. The arrival of Francis and his two colleagues brought about a split in Council. The newcomers constituted a hostile majority, who persistently thwarted and opposed Warren Hastings. Nuncomar was quick to perceive and take advantage of the situation. He brought a charge against the Governor-General of accepting bribes, to the amount of three and a half lakhs of rupees, for appointing Munnee Begum, mother of the young Nawab, and Gurusdas, his (Nuncomar's) son, to positions of trust in the household. Francis and his party proposed that Nuncomar should prefer his charge in presence of the Council. Hastings indignantly refused to countenance any such measure. He rose and quitted the Chamber, followed by Richard Barwell, his friend and supporter. The three remaining members summoned Nuncomar. After listening to his evidence they pronounced the Governor-General guilty, on the authority of a letter purporting to have been written by Munnee Begum to Nuncomar. This was afterwards found not to be in her handwriting. Meanwhile the three Members of Council ordered the Governor-General to refund the money. Hastings retaliated by bringing an action for conspiracy against Nuncomar in the Supreme Court. This was pending when a Muhammadan, named Kumal-ud-Din, summoned Nuncomar before the Supreme Court on the serious charge of

having forged his, the petitioner's, signature to a deed relative to the custody of certain valuable precious stones. The trial commenced on June 8, 1775, and continued until the 16th. It was the hottest season of the year. The Court was packed to suffocation. The sufferings of the three judges, in full-bottomed wigs and voluminous scarlet robes, are better imagined than described. At the end of a week it appeared as though Nuncomar would be acquitted, when, unfortunately for himself, he requested to give evidence on his own behalf. This proved fatal. What he said so prejudiced the jury that they returned a verdict of guilty. Accordingly, on the 5th August, he was led forth from his prison, on the site now covered by the Victoria Memorial, and publicly hanged at Coolie Bazaar, close to Hastings Bridge. Over a hundred thousand people are said to have witnessed the execution.

#### · PRINCESS TALLEYRAND.

Another sensational trial held in the Old Court House was that of Philip Francis. In 1779, the celebrated Member of Council was charged with having seduced the wife of Grand, a young Writer in the Company's service. The lady in question was the acknowledged belle of Calcutta. Tall, slender and golden haired, she was dowered with a faultless complexion and singularly beautiful blue eyes. Born at Tranquebar, the Danish settlement on the Coromandel Coast, on November 21, 1761, her maiden name was Noel Catherine Werlee. At Chandernagore she met young Grand, a Swiss. They were married on July 10, 1777. She was then fifteen and he nineteen. As soon as she appeared in Calcutta society, Francis singled her out by his marked attentions, undeterred by

the fact that he had a wife of his own and five children in England. Grand won his case against Francis, who was ordered to pay damages to the amount of fifty thousand sicca rupees. Thereafter the injured husband betook himself off to Behar, where he expended the money, as he himself records:—"In introducing into Behar, the manufacture of indigo after the European manner, in encouraging the establishment of indigo works and in erecting three at my own expense." He did not divorce his wife until many years later, and then only at her urgent request. After the Calcutta trial, Madame Grand went to live at Hughli, where Francis paid her frequent visits.

About twelve months later she went to Europe. There she led an adventurous existence until September 10, 1802, on which date she married de Talleyrand, Napoleon's famous Minister of Foreign Affairs. She was then in her fortieth year, but her beauty was still remarkable. In 1806 de Talleyrand was created Prince of Benevento.

### DALHOUSIE SQUARE, EAST.

Dalhousie Square, East, extends southward from Lall Bazaar Street to Mangoe Lane. A curious reservation formerly attached to No. 4, the premises now occupied by Messrs. W. Newman and Company, booksellers. On September 5, 1780, the ground was granted to Charles Weston, the friend of Zachariah Holwell and the financial support of his old age. The pettah, or deed of allotment, described it as comprising "One biggah and 15 cottahs of the Honourable Company's common, or untenanted, land situate in Dhee Calcutta." It was given to Weston upon condition "that no house, wall or other erection of any

kind be built upon it excepting a palisade, fence, or railing." Hampered by these terms it remained vacant until 1806, when the restriction was withdrawn. Prior to that Weston had sold it for Rs. 6,000 in 1795. The Bengal Club became owners of it in 1833. Forty-nine years later Sir Walter de Souza bought it for Rs. 1,80,000 and sold it again for Rs. 3,50,000.

The large white building to south, at the corner of Mangoe Lane, is the Paper Currency Office. Behind Dalhousie Square, East, runs Mission Row, containing the famous Mission Church, erected by Kiernander in 1772, and the houses inhabited by General Clavering and Colonel Monson, the two Members of Warren Hastings Council, who, with Francis, constituted the famous majority.

### DALHOUSIE INSTITUTE.

The southern side of Dalhousie Square runs westward from Old Court House Street to Hare Street. Its eastern angle is marked by a great brick block. This contains the Post, Telegraph and Dead Letter Offices, as well as numerous other departments relative thereto. Dalhousie Institute occupies an edifice of classical appearance on the north side of the thoroughfare. The portico is the oldest part of the building and dates from 1824. It looks straight down Wellesley Place to the lion-guarded north gate of Government House. At the head of the steps, leading into the Institute, is a fine white marble statue, by Flaxman, of the Marquis of Hastings, Governor-General, 1813-23.

The hall is the main feature of the building and measures 90 feet by 45 feet. The east end is marked by a

stage. A mural tablet states that the foundation-stone was laid on March 4, 1865, by the Honourable Cecil Beadon, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assisted by H. D. Sandeman, Esq., Provincial Grand Master of Bengal Masons. The Viceroy, Sir John Lawrence, was present. On the opposite wall, to north, a brass tablet commemorates John Renfrew, with whom the idea originated of erecting the hall "as a monumental edifice, to contain within its walls statues and busts of great men," a form of patriotic propaganda very popular at that period. By Lord Curzon's orders these relics of a glorious past were transferred to the Victoria Memorial Collection, at present stored at Belvedere. Only one remains, a marble statue in the north-west corner of the hall. It represents James Wilson, who came out to India late in 1859 as Financial Member of the Viceroy's Council, and died within nine months. Brief though his period of office, he introduced the income-tax, remodelled the system of accounts, and created a Government paper currency. The Institute possesses a library and reading-room. Adjoining it are the tennis courts of the Calcutta Trades Association.

### RAJA DHARBANGA.

To south-west of Dalhousie Institute, across the way, stretch the spreading red brick premises of the Standard Life Insurance Company. Where the roof forms a point above the centre of the building, the façade displays a handsomely moulded group of allegorical figures. Below, the block is pierced by Vansittart Row, a *cul de sac* named after a former President of Fort William, 1761-65. Further west are the offices of the European Association and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. At the south-west

corner of Dalhousie Square the eye is caught by a curious white statue reminiscent of Father Neptune. Backed by the green of the garden and sentinel palms, it is an object of curiosity to strangers. As a matter of fact it is not the sea-god. The bearded figure represents the late Rajah Dharbanga, obit 1894, the leading Zemindar of Behar, whose landed possessions aggregated 2,152 square miles and yielded a revenue of thirty lakhs of rupees.

Northward, along the west side of the Square, extend the premises of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Tata Industrial Bank, McLeod House and Royal Insurance Building. The last is separated from the General Post Office by Koila Ghât (Coal Wharf) Street, so-called from the amount of coal carried down it during the 19th century, when steamers first superseded sailing ships. Prior to that it was termed Killa Ghât, or Fort Wharf Street, and also Taksha!l Street, from the Dutch for Custom House, which building was situated in the south-west angle of the old fort.

### HARE STREET.

This well-known thoroughfare runs from the south-west corner of Dalhousie Square to the Strand. It was the work of the Lottery Committee appointed by Lord Hastings in 1817, as a City Improvement Trust, and takes its name from David Hare, whose house stood in it, at the corner of Church Lane. Described as watchmaker, philanthropist and Father of Indian education, Hare founded the school in College Square, which still perpetuates his memory.

The Imperial Library stands at the south-west end of Hare Street. It contains a splendid selection of rare and



valuable works of reference, and is open daily from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. On the opposite side of the road spreads the Small Cause Court, an extensive building which covers the site of the Ice House, demolished in 1882, and of the Marine and Master Attendant's Office. Prior to 1765 the latter was known as the Company's House. Certain Presidents preferred it as a residence to their official quarters in Old Fort William. After the loss and recapture of Calcutta it was converted into the Marine Yard. Adjoining it a dry dock was constructed for the repair of pilot vessels. This continued in use until 1809, when it was filled in.

### COMMERCIAL MUSEUM.

The Commercial Museum is in Council House Street, a turning to south off Dalhousie Square. It was established as recently as 1916, and is open free from 10-30 A.M. to 5-30 P.M., excepting on Saturday, when it closes at 2-30 P.M. Everything in the collection is of Indian manufacture. The exhibits occupy a long, narrow room, on the first floor of the Secretariat, reached by the southern staircase of that vast building, which practically monopolises the west side of the road. An anecdote connects certain handsome, and richly coloured silk handkerchiefs, in one of the showcases, with Lord Carmichael, well known as an art connoisseur. For many years prior to his appointment as Governor of Bengal, Lord Carmichael had bought this special line of handkerchiefs from a fashionable London outfitter, and had often wondered where they were manufactured. Only after his arrival in Calcutta was his curiosity gratified. To his surprise he learnt that they came from Murshidabad, the

18th century capital of Bengal. In return for his long patronage the weavers, Messrs. Bhattacharya, named the handkerchiefs after him.

### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

Little of the noise or fret of a great city penetrates the old world enclosure wherein stands St. John's Church, once the Cathedral of Calcutta. In the adjoining graveyard rests Job Charnock, founder of Calcutta. Near him lies Admiral Watson, the conqueror of Cheriah, the avenger, with Clive, of the Black Hole. Between them, sheltered by a white dome, sleeps Begum Johnson, widow of four husbands and grandmother of England's great Prime Minister, the Earl of Liverpool. Another neighbour is young Speke, the heroic sixteen-year-old midshipman, who lost his leg and life when Watson captured Fort Orleans, the French stronghold at Chander-nagore.

The most frequented entrance to the historic enclosure is the iron gate at the corner of Council House and Hastings Streets. Neat gravel paths lead between smooth green lawns, brightened by occasional flower-beds. Tall graceful palms stand singly and in couples, and large trees spread wide-thrust branches, through which the sunshine filters to pattern the ground with gold. Sombre buildings stretch protectingly to north and south. Their very windows express discreet reserve. The campo santo may not be overlooked with impunity, hence the levying of a casement tax.

In the centre rises St. John's Church, a large, square building of Grecian columns. The wide expanse of flat roof measures 7,400 square feet and is surmounted by a

tower and spire 174 feet high. At the time of its erection the steeple was the only stone edifice in Calcutta. This explains the nickname of *Pathar Girja* (Stone Church) applied locally to the sanctuary.

Originally the main entrance was at the east end. This is now closed, although the portico and steps still remain to puzzle strangers. Here stood the fine marble statue of Bishop Heber, removed to St. Paul's Cathedral in 1847. A mural tablet, to north of the verandah, bears the following inscription:—"The first stone of this sacred building, raised by the liberal and voluntary subscriptions of British subjects and others, was laid under the auspices of the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esq., Governor-General of India, on the 6th day of the month of April, 1784, and in the thirteenth year of his government."

Warren Hastings was instrumental in obtaining the site. The eastern part of it belonged to the old powder magazine, described as a massive bell-shaped structure 60 feet in diameter. This had been purchased from the Company by a wealthy talukdar named Nabo Krishna Deb, the "Nobkissen" of contemporary English writers, who transferred it to the Governor-General for ten thousand sicca rupees. It adjoined the original burial-ground of the settlement, by that epoch crowded with immense monuments. The majority were cleared away to make room for the church, among them that of Sir John Goldsborough, Admiral of the Company's fleet, who traced out the walls of Old Fort William in 1693.

The task of building the new sanctuary was entrusted to Lieutenant James A. Agg, of the Bengal Engineers. Popular sentiment favoured the design of St. Stephen's,

Wallbrook. of which Sir Christopher Wren was the architect. The neighbourhood being deficient in stone, much of the necessary material was brought from Gaur, the ancient capital of Bengal, once famous for its Pathan architecture, and especially the mausolea of its kings.

Warren Hastings was away when the foundation-stone was laid. In his absence this ceremony devolved upon Edward Wheler. Senior Member of Council. Proceedings began with a public breakfast in the Old Court House, on the site of St. Andrew's Church. From there the Company walked in solemn state to perform the imposing rite. The Reverend William Johnson, husband of the famous Begum Johnson, officiated as chaplain. Inside the church an inscription states that it was consecrated in 1787, "under the auspices of the most noble Marquis Cornwallis." In those days the sanctuary was entered from the east, behind the altar. The door was guarded by a sentry armed with a matchlock. Church-going constituted an official ceremony. On Sunday mornings the east portico was crowded with yellow chariots and sedan chairs. Worshippers of rank were preceded by silver mace-bearers. All, with any claim to be accounted fashionable, were accompanied by a retinue of at least seven servants, four chair-bearers, and a functionary who held aloft the roundelle, or state umbrella. The gentlemen present invariably stepped forward to help ladies alight and hand them to their seats. Those were the elaborate days of wigs, powder and patches, curtsies and hand-kissing, when all society lived, moved and had its being in a perpetual series of minuet evolutions.

Now the main door has been removed to the west end.

## THE VESTRY.

The spacious portico admits to a cruciform vestibule with rooms to left and right. On the latter side is the south vestry, its walls lined with a number of interesting portraits and old views. Among the more modern is one of Field Marshal Earl Roberts. Below it, in a frame, hangs his baptismal certificate, wherein his birth is recorded at Cawnpore, on September 20, 1832, and his christening in St. John's Church, on January 4, 1834. The parish records are of immense historical value, and teem with celebrated names. They are bound in a hundred volumes, and contain all baptisms, marriages and burials of the British community in Bengal between 1713 and 1816, with the exception of a brief gap after the fall of Fort William, in 1756.

Among the portraits, an oil-painting of Charles Weston, obit 1809, attracts attention owing to the strangeness of the headgear. Mr. Weston was Vestry Clerk for a time, and on public occasions wore a wig. When at home he affected a stiffly starched cotton handkerchief bound round his brows to form a queer upstanding cap. Another interesting likeness is that of the Reverend William Johnson, during whose incumbency the church was built. Two early Governors are also depicted, namely Samuel Fecke, 1718-23, and John Stack House, 1731-35.

The silver Communion plate numbers nine pieces and was a gift from the Honourable East India Company in 1787. When Mr. John Wanamaker, the American millionaire, visited the church, in 1902, he decided to have a duplicate set made for himself.

Another memento of the old rule consists of a pair of churchwardens' Staves engraved with the Company's arms

and motto. These were borne in front of the Governor-General on state occasions.

### THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH.

The church is paved with grey marble. A double row of tall Corinthian pillars support the ribbed, white roof. Light is admitted through two lines of clear glass windows fitted with small panes characteristic of the period. The extreme length of the building is 219 feet 5 inches, and the width 115 feet 6 inches. The sanctuary, at the east end, is curiously plain. It consists of a small arched recess, 15 feet 9 inches deep by 26 feet wide, containing the Communion table. The body of the church is decorated with remarkably fine mural tablets. Several are by Westmacott, who invariably introduced an Oriental touch by means of palms, peacock switches, or Indian figures. Immediately to right, on entering, the west wall displays a splendid white marble memorial to Alexander Colvin, obit 1818, erected by merchants of Calcutta. The upper part depicts two beautiful female figures seated upon a beehive. Below is a Hindu woman holding a lotus.

Above hangs a very fine painting of the Last Supper, by Zoffany, who presented it to the church as an altar-piece on April 9, 1787. As such it hung at the east end until transferred to its present position, where it is, unfortunately, skied, hence much of the effect is lost. Few pictures have excited more controversy. Tradition avers that several of the figures are portraits of well-known Calcutta people of the day. Father Parthenis, priest of the Greek Church, sat for Our Lord. The

Police Magistrate, Mr. W. C. Blaquiere, served as model for St. John, while Judas Iscariot, the most virile, as also the most prominent figure in the group, is believed to represent Mr. James Paul, the English Resident at the Muhammadan Court of Lucknow, where Zoffany was in high favour with the reigning sovereign. The artist valued his pictures at Rs. 1,000 per figure. He was a member of the Royal Academy and came out to India in 1784, having fallen into disfavour at Court through introducing a portrait of the Queen, as she was when Princess of Mecklenburg, into his picture entitled "Life School," in close proximity to a supposed admirer of hers.

Another handsome memorial by Westmacott lines the south wall, and is to Michael Cheese, Garrison Surgeon at Fort William, obit 1816. The scene depicted is that of the Good Samaritan. Romantic interest attaches to the fine sculptured tablet, by James Bacon, junior, to Lieut.-Colonel James Achilles Kirkpatrick, of the Madras Army, for nine years Resident at the Nizam's Court, Hyderabad. While discharging the duties of the latter office Colonel Kirkpatrick was the hero of an adventure mysterious as any in the Arabian Nights Tales. One evening he was seated alone in the Residency, when a palanquin approached. Silently and swiftly the bearers set it down at the foot of the verandah steps. A small hand drew aside the curtains and a closely veiled figure emerged. Colonel Kirkpatrick's pulse began to beat more rapidly. The lady raised the heavy covering from before her face, revealing a very old woman. With all the art, of which she was past mistress, the ancient dame began to describe the charms of a young and lovely

lady, the Begum Khair-un-Nissa, granddaughter of the Nizam's Paymaster. At an official function, some two days earlier, the Begum had caught sight of Colonel Kirkpatrick through the fretted marble screen-work of the harem. It was a case of love at first sight, and she despatched the most skilful of matchmakers to arrange the marriage. Despite the old dame's persuasions, Kirkpatrick remained obdurate. He would none of the lady.

The incident had faded from his memory when, a few evenings later, a second palanquin appeared. The bearers set it down. Out stepped yet another muffled figure. She threw back her veil. This time it was no old woman, but the young and beautiful Begum in person. Without loss of time the now deeply enamoured Kirkpatrick requested the hand of Khair-un-Nissa of the Nizam. Finally a marriage was arranged in conformity with Muhammadan law. The union was ideally happy. Kirkpatrick built a beautiful residence for her known as Rang Mahal, or Colour Palace. It was demolished by Sir George Yule, during his period as Resident, 1863-67. Two children were born of the marriage, a boy and a girl. The former died. In 1805 Kirkpatrick came to Calcutta to confer with Lord Cornwallis. During his stay he resided with his kinsman, Charles Buller, at Chowringhee. Here he died at the age of 41. He is buried in Park Street cemetery. His daughter, Catherine Aurora, was sent to relatives in England. She is the Kitty Kirkpatrick of Carlyle's "Reminiscences" and the "Blumine" of his "Sartor Resartus." Eventually she married Captain James Winsloe Phillips, and died at Torquay in 1887, aged nearly ninety.



## FUNERAL HATCHMENTS.

Hatchments are rarely seen in Indian churches. The four on the south wall are those of the first four Bishops of Calcutta, namely, Thomas Fanshawe Middleton, obit 1822, Reginald Heber, 1826, John Thomas James, 1828, John Mathias Turner, 1831. The three on the north wall are trophies of three Justices of the late Supreme Court of Judicature, Bengal, two of whom rose to be Lord Chief Justice.

## THE CHANCEL.

Within the altar rails a plain floor-tablet inscribed "T. F. M. D. D. obit VIII Julii 1822" marks the grave of Doctor Middleton, who arrived in Calcutta in 1814 as the first Anglican bishop of India. The Communion table stands on three grey marble steps within an arched recess tinted blue. The walls bear mural tablets commemorating various bishops and archdeacons. The chair is the one in which the first five bishops were enthroned. In 1845 St. John's ceased to be a cathedral.

The only stained glass in the church, with the exception of blue skylights, appears in the trefoiled window of the side chapel to right, erected in memory of Henry Inglis, obit 1865, a lime merchant of Cherrapunji, Assam. To left, near the organ, stands the original altar, whereof it is recorded:—"The Honourable Company donated £1,200 towards the provision of Communion plate, an organ, a clock, bells and velvet for the pulpit, desk and Communion table."

In front of the fourth pillar, to east, on the south side, is a pedestal supporting a white marble bust presented by Lord Minto, when Viceroy of India, on March 9,

1890, in place of a former bust of his ancestor, the first Earl of Minto, which was destroyed by earthquake in 1897.

Originally the interior of the church presented a very different appearance. Entrance was through a wide shallow vestibule behind the altar. To right and left staircases led up to the doors of side galleries reserved for the quality. The Communion table occupied an apse paved with white Chinese marble. Above it hung Zoffany's "Last Supper." The central columns were Doric but converted into Corinthian pillars in 1811. The Governor-General and his Council occupied the front row of the north gallery. Behind them were ranged the gentlemen of the settlement. The southern gallery was sacred to the Judges, at the back of whom sheltered the ladies of the community until they changed over on account of the glare. Both galleries were removed in 1901.

### LADY CANNING.

The northern verandah of the church is conspicuous for a very remarkable cenotaph. It is of unusual dimensions and is surmounted by a beautiful and elaborate Ionic cross. The whole is of white marble inlaid with coloured Florentine mosaic, after the manner of certain Moghul tombs. It was originally erected over the grave of Lady Canning, who died and was buried at Barrackpore on November 18, 1861. Born in Paris, on March 31, 1817, she was a daughter of Lord Stuart de Rothesay, and wife of Charles John Earl Canning, the first Viceroy of India, who held office as Governor-General during the stormy days of the Mutiny. His

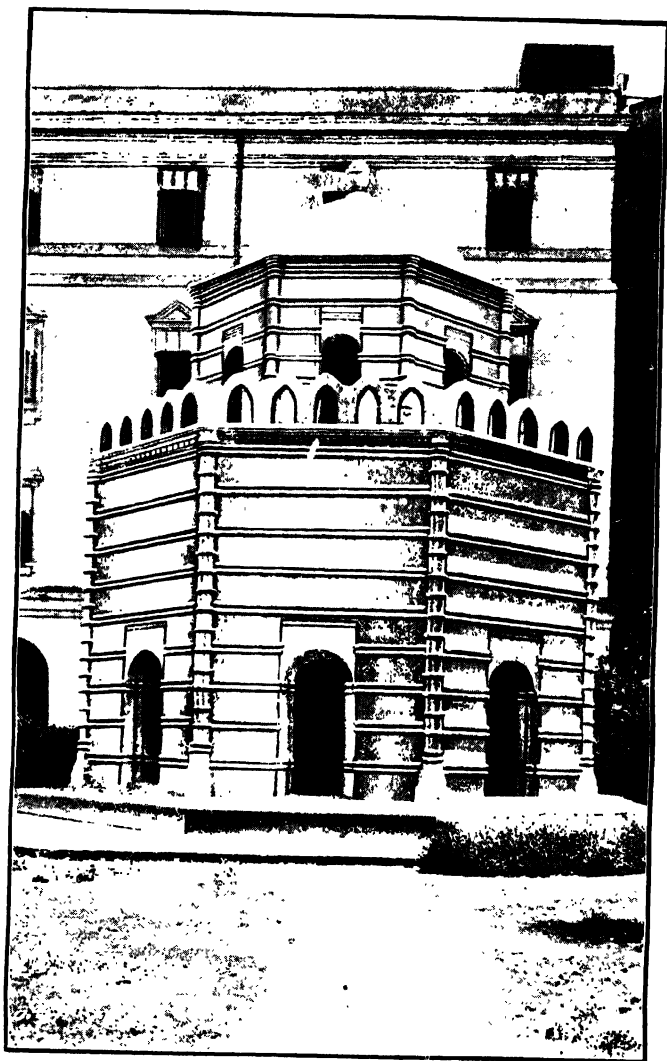
administration was marked by strict impartiality and justice. Lord Canning only survived his wife seven months. He died in London and lies buried in Westminster Abbey. His wife's tomb is engraved with his arms and hers. It was brought from Barrackpore and placed in St. Paul's Cathedral, whence it was transferred to its present site. Few tombstones have travelled so much.

### THE ROHILLA CENOTAPH.

This is the first monument to catch the eye in the graveyard, and consists of a circular masonry pavilion of imposing dimensions, raised on an octagonal platform. The twelve smooth columns are topped by a decorative frieze introducing the heads of deer, in low relief, between conventional rose ornaments. Above rises a rounded dome, its surface broken by a central band of three shallow ledges. Known as the Rohilla Cenotaph, it commemorates Colonel George Burrington and thirteen other officers, whose names are inscribed thereon, in addition to all European and Indian non-commissioned officers and privates, who fell during October, 1794, in the second Rohilla War.

### MAUSOLEUM OF JOB CHARNOCK.

To north stands a curious and very massive mausoleum, the last resting-place of Job Charnock, founder of Calcutta. It was erected immediately after his death by his son-in-law, Charles Eyre, the first President of Fort William. The stone composing it is Pallavaram gneiss, specially brought for the purpose from the famous quarry near Madras, and styled Charnockite ever since. The mausoleum is of octagonal form surmounted by a



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*Phot. by Johnston and Hoffmann.*

**THE MAUSOLEUM OF JOB CHARNOCK, FOUNDER OF CALCUTTA.**



serrated parapet, and a ponderous kiosk crowned by a low smooth cupola and funeral urn. The exterior produces a strange zebra-like effect. From a distance it appears to be encased in bars of iron. Closer inspection reveals the horizontal outstanding ribs to be cut in the stone.

The pavilion occupies a platform, and originally possessed eight narrow arched entrances, three of which are now closed. It is surrounded by a pavement composed of thirty gravestones removed to make room for the foundations of St. John's Church, and subsequently laid down in their present position. The inscriptions on all are deeply cut and well preserved, while the dates range from 1693 to 1766. Immediately in front of the south entrance is one which bears the following English epitaph :—" Here lies interred the body of Henry Burton, late Commander of the ship "Loyalty," captured from Fort St. George, who departed this life 25th December, 1693, aged 44." Below a skull and crossbones are carved between quaint cherub heads. Further decoration consists of an elaborate coat-of-arms.

The interior of the mausoleum is partially lined with four large gravestones placed upright in a row in such a manner as to effectually close three of the eight arched doorways. Interest naturally centres in the one commemorating the Founder of Calcutta. This originally lay flat on the middle of the floor above the grave. The inscription is in Latin and is boldly cut in raised letters. The English translation runs:—" Job Charnock, Esq., Englishman, late the most honourable Agent of the English in this realm of Bengal, left his mortal remains beneath this monument to sleep in hope of a blessed

resurrection to the coming of Christ, the Judge. After long sojourn in a strange land he returned to his eternal home on the 10th January, 1692."

Romance gilds the historical interest attaching to Charnock's name. Of his early life little is known beyond the fact that he came out to the strange land of his long sojourn about 1655. Here he took to himself a wife of the country. His marriage was the result of as surprising and dramatic an adventure as any ever imagined in the wildest fiction. The tale runs that Charnock habitually made a nocturnal round of the Company's factory preceded by torch-bearers, and protected by an armed guard. One evening, while so employed, he passed a burning-ghât. The pyre was ready and a young widow was performing the last rites prior to committing suttee. She was tall, fair-skinned and beautiful. Charnock commanded his guards to rescue her and bring her to him. The much quoted Alexander Hamilton alludes to the incident:—"They lived lovingly many years and had several children. At length she died after he had settled at Calcutta. Instead of converting her to Christianity she made him a proselyte to paganism, and the only part of Christianity that was remarkable in him was burying her decently. He built a tomb over her, and all his life, after her death, he kept the anniversary by sacrificing a cock on her tomb after the pagan manner."

It is probable that Charnock retained more respect for Christianity than Hamilton imagined. In proof of this the parish records of St. Mary's Church, Fort St. George, Madras, contain the baptisms of his three daughters. History is silent regarding the actual date of his wife's death. Popular belief affirms that she predeceased him,

and that both lie buried in the same grave. When, in November, 1892, the mausoleum was being repaired the opportunity was taken of ascertaining whether the foundations contained a vault. The contrary was proved. The Revd. H. B. Hyde was chaplain of St. John's at the time. He describes how a grave was unearthed at a depth of six feet. It stretched east and west exactly across the centre of the mausoleum. No sooner had the bones of a left forearm been uncovered than he ordered the cavity to be filled in.

The memorial tablet bears a second inscription. "Here also lieth Mary, eldest daughter of Job, the dearly loved wife of Charles Eyre, Governor of the English Settlement here, who died on the 19th February 1696." The neighbouring stone commemorates Charnock's youngest daughter, Mrs. Catherine White, obit January 21, 1700, aged 18.

### SURGEON WILLIAM HAMILTON.

Historical interest of no common kind attaches to a third slab in the row. It was discovered embodied in the ground, in 1782, when the foundations of the church were being dug, and marked the grave of William Hamilton, the famous surgeon, who accompanied the British Embassy from Calcutta to the Moghul Court, in 1715, and died, on his return to Fort William, on December 4, 1717. His epitaph runs :—"His memory ought to be dear to this nation for the credit he gained the English in curing Ferrukseer, the present King of Indostan, of a malignant distemper, by which he made his own name famous at the court of that Great Monarch; and, without doubt, will perpetuate his memory in Great



Britain and all other nations in Europe." A longer and more laudatory inscription follows in Persian.

Unfortunately gratitude is short-lived. The very men who owed most to him allowed the all-obliterating earth to accumulate upon Hamilton's grave. The surgeon whose skill had obtained an imperial decree, making the English settlers at Fort William masters of thirty-eight villages, was forgotten until the excavator's spade brought his tombstone accidentally to light. Warren Hastings was impressed by the circumstance. He ordered the letters of the inscription to be gilt, and expressed his intention of setting the slab in the front porch of the church. He left India, however, and the tablet remained lying about until placed in the Charnock mausoleum.

### BEGUM JOHNSON.

The domed pavilion, in the north-west corner of the graveyard, marks the resting-place of a very remarkable old lady, known to 18th century Calcutta as "Begam" Johnson. Her fourth and last husband, Chaplain Johnson, was mainly instrumental in getting St. John's Church built. Born on April 10, 1725, she was the daughter of Edward Crook, Governor of Fort St. David, the English factory on the Coromandel Coast, below Pondicherry. On November 4, 1741, she was married to Parry Purpler Templer, who left her a widow early in 1743. In the following November she became the wife of James Altham, Bengal Civil Service. He fell a victim to small-pox within twelve days. She waited for November to come round again to be united to Mr. William Watts, by whom she had a son and two daughters. Watts was Chief at Cassimbazar, near Murshidabad, when

Siraj-ud-Daulah seized the English factory prior to marching against Calcutta. The Chief and his family were carried off, close prisoners, to Murshidabad. There Mrs. Watts was befriended by the old Begum, grandmother of the young Nawab, who arranged for her and her children to be conveyed to the French settlement at Chandernagore. In after years Mrs. Watts never wearied of re-telling the adventure, and continued to refer to it after her fourth marriage. Her frequent allusion to the old Begum gained her the nickname of "Begum" Johnson. Her elder daughter, Amelia Watts, married Charles Jenkinson, first Earl of Liverpool. Their son became Prime Minister of England early in the 19th century.

When in her fiftieth year Mrs. Watts was united to Chaplain Johnson, also a well-known character in his day. On his retirement, in 1788, she refused to accompany him to England. She remained in Calcutta until her death, in 1812. Lord Wellesley allowed her to choose her last resting-place. She selected the north-west corner of the long closed burial-ground. Here she lies next to Admiral Watson and near to Job Charnock. She was wise in her choice of neighbours. Their fame sheds so bright a lustre that her memory shines with a reflected glory, and she continues, in death as in life, an outstanding personality.

#### TOMB OF ADMIRAL WATSON.

To south of the Begum's mausoleum stands a modest cream coloured obelisk, which tapers up from a massive base. The eastern face bears a white marble tablet with deeply cut black lettering. The inscription reads :--  
 " Here lies interred the body of Charles Watson, Esq.,

Vice-Admiral of the White, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Naval Forces in the East Indies, who departed this life 16th August, 1757, in ye 44th year of his age.

Gheriah taken February 13, 1756.

Calcutta freed January 2, 1757.

Chandernagore taken March 23, 1757.

*"Exegit monumentum sere perennius."*

A monument to his memory was also erected in Westminster Abbey.

Admiral Watson was born in 1714. He was a son of a Prebendary of Westminster and entered the Navy in 1728. On March 9, 1754, he hoisted his flag as Rear-Admiral of the Blue, in H.M.S. "Kent," 70 guns commissioned by Captain Henry Speke, R.N., and sailed from Plymouth for the East Indies, to which station he was appointed Commander-in-Chief. The fleet accompanying him included the "Tyger," "Salisbury," "Cumberland" and two other ships. They carried a large body of troops and Adelson's Regiment, *Primus in Indis*, now the 1st battalion of the Dorsets. The expedition was intended to strengthen the Company against the French, who had then two formidable leaders in India in the persons of de Bussy and Lally.

### THE SPEKE MONUMENT.

This sunken box-shaped monument occupies a square stone depression to west of the Rohilla Cenotaph. The eastern face displays a black memorial tablet to Billy Speke, the 16-year old midshipman of the "Kent," who lost his leg and his life at the capture of Chandernagore. The flagship lay so close up to Fort Orleans that musket-balls fired from her tops struck against the Governor's

House and flattened to the shape of half-crowns. The French put up a determined resistance. The "Kent" alone lost 37 killed and 71 wounded. In the thick of the engagement a shot struck both Captain Speke and his son. Surgeon Ives, in his "Voyage," tells how the lad refused to be attended to until all the others had received medical aid. His own leg had to be amputated above the knee and he bore the operation almost in silence. On the following day he was brought to Calcutta and placed in the hospital adjoining the graveyard. Here he soon succumbed to lockjaw.

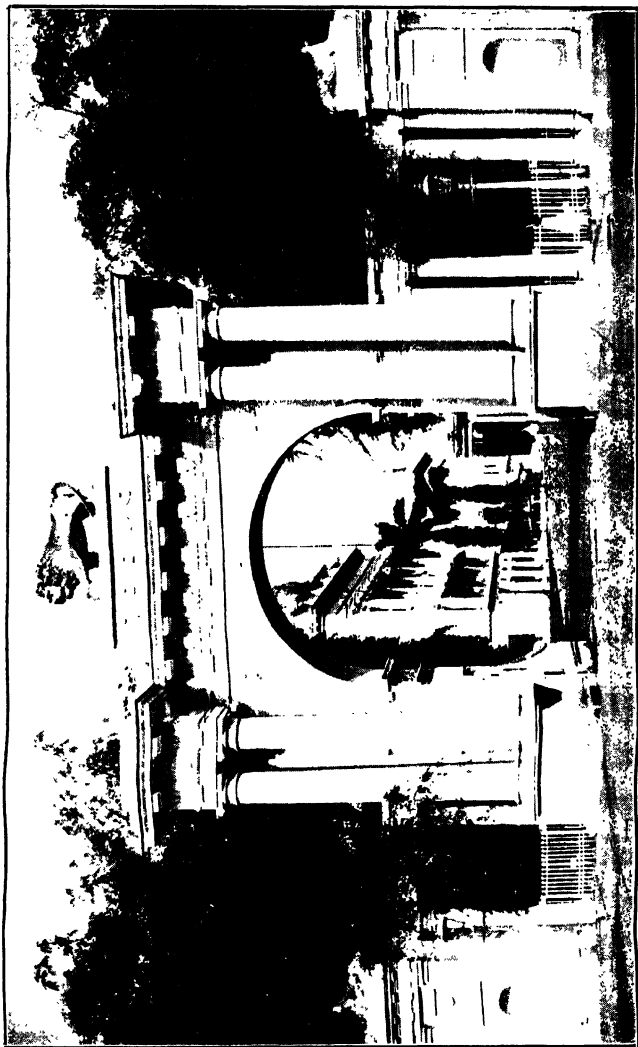
An amazing find was made in front of the tomb in 1893. Some flower-beds were being dug when the spade of a gardener uncovered a square, highly polished granite tablet six inches thick, two feet eight and a half inches long by two feet five inches wide. The face was inscribed with Chinese characters arranged in two rows. These proved it to be none other than the foundation-stone of the Coiled Dragon and Crouching Tiger Fort built, on the Island of Chusan, about 1652 A.D., in the eighth year of Shunshih, first Emperor of the Ching Dynasty. From 1840 until 1846 British troops occupied Chusan pending China's fulfilment of treaty obligations. How the foundation-stone of the Dragon and Tiger stronghold found its way to St. John's Church is a mystery that has not been elucidated. It is now lodged amid the many archaeological treasures in the Indian Museum, Chowringhee.

## 7, HASTINGS STREET.

The premises now occupied by Messrs. Burn and Co., on the south side of Hastings Street, constituted the town

house of Madame Imhoff, known to lovers of romance the world over as Marian, the passionately loved second wife of Warren Hastings. The lady was of French descent. Her maiden name was Anna Maria Appolonia Chapusettin. She was born at Stuttgart, of Huguenot parents. The family were still living in exile when she met and married Baron Carl Imhoff, a German military officer from Nurnberg. Subsequently he obtained a commission in the Madras Army as ensign, and sailed for Fort St. George in the "Duke of Grafton," in 1769. With him were his wife, aged twenty-two, and a small son. Warren Hastings was a fellow-passenger. Upon arrival in India he shared his house with the Imhoffs, at St. Thomas's Mount, Madras. Very soon Imhoff found that his pay as ensign was insufficient, and took to miniature-painting as a profession. When Warren Hastings was transferred to Calcutta the Imhoffs accompanied him. From this point the story becomes enveloped in mystery. It is not probable that the real facts will ever be known. Report avers that Hastings paid Imhoff a large sum of money to return to Germany and arrange a divorce. Thenceforward the German husband disappeared from the scene. The Governor-General took the house now known as 7, Hastings Street for Madame Imhoff, to whom he was subsequently married, on Friday, August 8, 1777. The entry is preserved among the records in St. John's Church. Mrs. Hastings signed the register in her maiden name. To the Governor-General she was always "My Dearest Marian." His letters to her breathe the passionate and unswerving devotion of a reserved man, whose affections are perforce concentrated upon one person. Hers to him are disappointing. In them she seems to humour, rather





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Photo by Johnston and Hoffmann.

NORTH PORT GATE - GOVERNMENT HOUSE - CAPE TOWN.

than return his affection. Mrs. Fay has left the following description of her:—"Mrs. Hastings herself, it is easy to perceive at the first glance, is far superior to the generality of her sex, though her appearance is rather eccentric. It is easy to perceive how fully sensible she is of her own consequence. She is, indeed, raised to a giddy eminence, and expects to be treated with the most profound respect and deference."

### GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Government House is the most imposing building of its kind in India. It is admirably situated midway between the old Calcutta of early historical associations, to north, and the more recent city which has sprung up to south. Thanks to its central site the great white pile, surmounted by a slate-grey dome and flagstaff, is familiar to all. The encircling grounds are guarded by a white iron railing and a screen of trees, many of them blossom-laden and fragrant. The east and west sides are each pierced by two gates, imposing white porticos topped by a lion, one forepaw resting on a globe, and flanked, at a lower level, by crouching sphinx-like figures, a compliment, doubtless, to the Egyptian campaign of 1801. The main entrance is to north and is characterised by four modern square stone pillars capped by ornamental urns. Here the visitors' book is kept, wherein newcomers write their names. A sixth gate was added, on the south side, in 1911.

Lord Wellesley is responsible for Government House. Before his time the Company's chief representative in India had been but modestly accommodated. Grandpre remarked on the fact in 1790:--"He lives in a house on the Esplanade, opposite the Citadel. Many private



individuals in the town have houses as good. That of the Governor of Pondicherry is much more magnificent."

In those days the Esplanade extended along the northern end of the Maidan to the river. The Governor's House stood facing it, at the south-west corner of Old Court House Street. Next door, to west, was the Council House, after which came the Accountant-General's Office. The three buildings stretched in a row. A gap followed and, finally, the New Court House marked the western extremity of the Esplanade.

Flushed with his victories in the south of India, where Tipu Sultan had been slain, and the fabulously rich capital of Seringapatam captured, Lord Wellesley wrote informing the Court of Directors that "India should be governed from a Palace, not from a counting-house, with the ideas of a Prince, not with those of a retail dealer in muslin and indigo."

The Governor-General possessed the courage of his convictions. He directed Captain Charles Wyatt, Bengal Engineers, to draw up a plan for a new Government House on a suitably magnificent scale. The foundation-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonial on February 5, 1799. The style selected was Queen Ann, with Georgian pediments and porticos. Thirteen and a half lakhs were expended upon the buildings and another half-lakh upon furniture. When all was complete, Lord Wellesley opened Government House on 26th January, 1803, with a ball in honour of the European peace concluded by the recently signed Treaty of Amiens. Lord Valentia was present. He writes :—"The State rooms were, for the first time, lighted up. At the upper end of the largest was placed a very rich Persian carpet, and in

the centre of that a masnad of crimson and gold formerly composing part of the ornaments of Tipu Sultan's throne. On this side was a rich chair and stool of State for Lord Wellesley, on each side three chairs for the Members of Council and Judges. Down to the door, on both sides, were seats for the ladies, in which they were placed according to the strict rules of precedence, which is here regulated by the seniority of the husband in the Company's service. At about 10 o'clock Lord Wellesley arrived attended by a large body of aide-de-camps, etc. After receiving, in the north verandah, the compliments of some of the Indian princes, the vakils and others, he took his seat. Dancing then commenced, and continued till supper. The room was not sufficiently lighted up, yet still the effect was beautiful.

A row of chunam pillars, which supported each side together with the rest of the room, were of shining white, that made a contrast to the different dresses of the company. Lord Wellesley wore the Orders of St. Patrick and the Crescent in diamonds. Many of the European ladies were also richly ornamented with jewels. The black dresses of the male Armenians were pleasing from their variety, and the costly, though unbecoming habits of their females, together with the appearance of officers, nabobs, Persians and others resembled a masquerade. About 800 people were present, who found sufficient room at supper in the marble hall below."

On the hundredth anniversary of the opening of Government House, Lord Curzon, who was Viceroy at the time, gave a centenary ball. The dress of 1803 was worn. He impersonated Lord Wellesley.

A fine flight of steps leads up to the State entrance on the north. The handsome pillared portico is surmounted by the Royal arms. On these hospitable steps Calcutta society habitually assembled to welcome incoming Viceroys. They are only used on ceremonial occasions. The ordinary entrance is below, under the stairs. The grand vestibule above admits to a suite of three apartments. The first, to north, is the breakfast room. Beyond is the famous Banqueting Hall divided down the centre by a double row of pillars. On either side stand the celebrated busts of the twelve Cæsars intended as a gift to the Nizam of Hyderabad from the French King, but captured together with the ship conveying them. Lord Valentia ascribed the many mirrors and chandeliers to General Claude Martin, founder of the famous La Martinière Colleges, whose effects were sold in Lucknow on October 15, 1801, when some of the furniture was bought for Lord Wellesley's new Government House.

### THRONE OF TIPU SULTAN.

Beyond is the Throne Room. It opens out on to a fine circular verandah and derives its name from a curiously shaped gilt chair, with low back, shallow arms and red cushions, formerly incorporated in Tipu Sultan's throne. Contemporary writers describe the actual throne captured at Seringapatam as raised about 4 feet from the ground upon the back of a great golden tiger. For steps it had a heavily gilt silver ladder. The canopy was of hard black wood entirely overlaid with thick plates of pure gold, and encircled by a deep fringe of alternate gold beads and real pearls. Surmounting it

was a jewelled bird with outspread tail of glittering many-coloured gems. This *rara avis* was sent as a gift to Queen Charlotte. Apparently the actual seat of the masnad alone was preserved. It stands in a corner of the Throne Room between life-sized portraits of Louis XV of France and his Queen, Marie Leczinska, regarding which conflicting reports prevail. One declares the pictures to have been captured in a French ship bound for the Isle of France, now renamed "Mauritius." Another says that they were brought from Chandernagore.

### COUNCIL CHAMBER.

The Council Chamber is in the south-east wing. Here hang numerous portraits of Governors-General and Viceroys. Among them are Lord Hardinge, 1844-48, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, 1862-63, Richard, Earl of Mornington, afterwards Marquis of Wellesley, 1798-1805, Lord Hastings, 1786-93 and 1805, and Sir Gilbert Elliot, afterwards Earl of Minto, 1807-13. More paintings line the corridors. The one which usually attracts most attention depicts Zachariah Holwell, holding an open scroll, whereon is drawn his celebrated monument over the grave of the victims of the Black Hole.

The first floor of the south-east wing contains the green drawing-room. His Excellency the Governor's study is in the south-west wing. The north-west wing is reserved for State guests.

### BALL-ROOMS.

The second floor of the main building is similarly divided up into a suite of three apartments. The two first are ball-rooms, and the third the grand drawing-

room. All have floors of teak. A fine portrait of Queen Victoria hangs in the north ball-room. Her Majesty is depicted in Royal robes seated on the throne. The picture was painted by Sir George Hayter in 1862.

The second floor of the north-west wing is reserved for the Governor's private use. Guest-rooms occupy the other three wings.

With the exception of the Council Chamber the public rooms are confined to the main building, a central block connected with four corner wings by crescent-shaped galleries. Each annexe is practically a separate house. The rooms are so planned that a current of air passes through all, no matter from which quarter the wind blows.

Although Lord Valentia records that the State rooms were first illuminated at a ball on January 26, 1803, it would seem that Government House was formally opened on May 4, 1802, at a reception in honour of the third anniversary of the Fall of Seringapatam.

The grounds contain a representative collection of historical cannons. The handsomest is a great brass piece adorned with dragons. This was captured from the Chinese in 1840 and stands in front of the main entrance.

### GOVERNMENT PLACE, WEST.

The entire west side of Government Place is occupied by a long brick edifice, part of which is styled Treasury Buildings. It dates from the Marquis of Ripon and was completed in 1884. Here, in viceregal days, the government of India was conducted during the cold weather. The one-time Imperial Secretariat contains the Library of the Astronomical Society, to which the public is admitted

free on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M., also the Imperial Record Department and other offices.

### TOWN HALL. —

The Town Hall faces the Esplanade to west of Government House. It is a two-storeyed yellow building approached by steps, and a pillared portico containing a handsome white marble statue of Warren Hastings, by Westmacott. The first Governor-General of Fort William is represented standing upright holding an open scroll. On one side of him is a Munshi, or Muhammedan teacher, and on the other a Brahmin Pundit. His figure is emaciated and his thin, clean-shaven face almost that of an ascetic. Much as Macaulay has smirched his fame even that impetuous writer admits :—"His internal administration, with all its blemishes, gives him a title to be considered as one of the most remarkable men in history . . . . He boasted that every public office, without exception, which existed when he left Bengal, was created by him." Certainly the thoughtful suffering face, on the southern portico of the Town Hall, is not that of a boaster. Inside a long gloomy room stretches 162 feet from east to west by 65 feet. It is marble-paved and lined with a double row of closely set pillars. At the western extremity is a splendid statue of Lord Cornwallis, by J. Bacon, junior. The Governor-General is depicted in Roman costume, laurel wreath in one hand. Female figures, at either side of him, hold up a mirror and a snake.

Lord Cornwallis first came to India in 1786. He retired in 1793. Nominated Governor-General a second time, he returned in 1805, but died at Ghazipur, U. P., on his way up-country.

The carriage entrance is on the north side. Here a tragic incident occurred on September 20, 1871. The Town Hall was in temporary use as High Court. Mr. J. P. Norman, acting Chief Justice, was stabbed as he was mounting the steps. From either end of the verandah staircases lead up to the great hall on the upper storey, a light, airy apartment characterised by a teak floor and double row of pillars. Numerous interesting and valuable portraits line the walls. The building also contains many notable statues of local celebrities.

The Town Hall was erected by public subscription in 1804 at a cost of seven and a half lakhs of rupees. It occupies the site of Mr. Justice Hyde's residence whereof Mrs. Fay, herself a barrister's wife, wrote how, on the first day of each term, "the professional gentlemen all meet at a public breakfast at Mr. Hyde's house, and go thence in procession to the Court House." The latter stood on the ground now covered by the High Court.

### LORD WILLIAM BENTINCK.

The splendid bronze statue on the Esplanade, opposite the Town Hall, is by Westmacott, and represents Lord William Bentinck, Governor-General from 1828 to 1835. The bas-relief on the pedestal is worthy of special note. It depicts a "Saha-gaman" or widow burning, which practice Lord William abolished. The inscription on the back is from the pen of Macaulay.

Lord William Bentinck was the second son of the third Duke of Portland. His administration was marked by the annexation of Coorg, in South India, by the appointment of the commission which drew up the Penal Code, by Macaulay's famous scheme of English education, and

by the founding of the Medical College. He was the first Governor-General of India. This title was conferred upon him in November 1834. Before that he and his predecessors were styled Governor-General of the Province of Fort William in Bengal.

### HIGH COURT.

This splendid edifice stretches from the Town Hall to the Strand. The style is Gothic. It was completed in 1872 from designs drawn by Mr. Walter Granville, who is said to have borrowed inspiration from the Town Hall of Ypres. Built about four sides of a cool, shady quadrangle, green with palms and other trees, the interior is lined with echoing, arcaded cloisters, off which open various courts and allied apartments. The principal entrance is through the handsome central tower on the south side commanding the Esplanade. Carriages approach *viâ* the east and west, the latter entrance being reserved for Judges. The ground floor is divided among different offices. Above are the courts, the Judges' Library, the Barristers' Library, rooms for Judges, Barristers', Pleaders' and Attorneys' Association. The walls are hung with portraits of legal celebrities from Sir Elijah Impey, appointed first Judge of the Supreme Court in 1774, onwards. The top floor accommodates the Administrator-General, Receiver, Advocate-General, Legal Remembrancer, and so on. Staircases, in the corner turrets, lead up to the roof, whence a fine view is obtained of Calcutta, the Hooghly and the further bank.

The present building stands on the site of the Supreme Court, erected as successor to the Old Court House, in



Dalhousie Square, demolished in 1792. Even after the appointment of four royal judges to Calcutta the East India Company continued to maintain their own Court of Law, known as the Sudder Adalat. This temporarily discharged its functions in what is now the Military Hospital, to south of the Race-course. The Company further exercised the prerogative of appointing their own lawyers, and of limiting their number to twelve. Sir Elijah Impey dealt a fatal blow at this system. That spritely chronicler, Mrs. Fay, records how her husband consulted Sir Elijah Impey as to the possibility of objection being raised to his practising as a barrister in Calcutta without the Company's sanction. To this the King's Judge replied:—"No, Sir! Had you dropped from the clouds with such documents we would admit you. The Supreme Court is independent and will never endure to be dictated to by any body of men whose claim is not enforced by supreme authority. It is nothing to us whether you had or had not permission from the Court of Directors to proceed to this settlement. You came to us as an authorised English barrister. As such we shall, on the first day of the next term, admit you to our Bar."

#### LORD NORTHBROOK.

The statue facing the High Court is that of Thomas George, Earl of Northbrook, Viceroy of India, 1872-76.

#### EDEN GARDENS.

To south of the High Court stands a fine statue of George Eden, second Baron and first and only Earl of Auckland. Appointed Governor-General in 1836, his

administration is chiefly memorable for his intervention in Afghan, where his support of Shah Shujah against the rival claimant to the throne, Dost Muhammad, led to the First Afghan War. Beyond lie Eden Gardens. These pretty public grounds were laid out by Lord Auckland's sisters, the Misses Eden, ladies who were remarkable for their literary and artistic attainments. The pleasance has absorbed the site of Rodentia, the fine avenue of trees which once constituted the fashionable promenade of Calcutta society. The Burmese Pagoda, in the centre, is a war trophy brought from Prome in 1856.

#### CAPTAIN SIR WILLIAM PEEL, R.N.

The white marble statue, facing the southern entrance to Eden Gardens, represents Captain Sir William Peel, R.N., commanding H.M.S. "Shannon" in Indian waters, when the Sepoy Mutiny broke out in 1857. He was third son of the great Sir Robert Peel, and grandson of General Sir John Floyd, described as the most dashing cavalry officer of his day. At the head of the naval brigade Captain Peel took part in the relief of Lucknow under Sir Colin Campbell. During the bombardment of La Martinière College he was wounded in the thigh. When the time came for the brigade to rejoin the fleet a State carriage, once the property of the ex-King of Oudh, was brought round for Captain Peel. First, however, the ship's carpenter had taken the precaution to paint H.M.S. "Shannon" above the Royal Arms on the door panel. Captain Peel preferred a dhooly. Unluckily it had just been used for a small-pox case. He caught the complaint and died at Lucknow on April 27, 1858.

## FIRST DAY . . . . . AFTERNOON.

Drive along Chowringhee and *viâ* Circular Road across Zeerut Bridge to Alipore. Visit the Zoological Gardens. Next proceed to Belvedere House, the Garden of the Agri-Horticultural Society, and Hastings House. Continue westward to Diamond Harbour Road. Pass Kidderpore House and St. Stephen's Church.

## CHOWRINGHEE.

Chowringhee may be termed the Broadway of Calcutta. To west stretches the Maidan, once a tiger-infested jungle, first cleared by the great Clive when the present Fort William was in course of construction. Military considerations prevented the plain from being built over. As a result it has been preserved to become the playground and chief attraction of the city. Chowringhee extends from Dharamtolla in the north to Lower Circular Road in the south, a distance of a mile and five furlongs. Its western side is traversed by tram-lines. On the east it is flanked by a striking variety of buildings, shops large and small, hotels, restaurants, theatres, picture palaces, clubs, and the Indian Museum. These have usurped the place of those stately 18th century garden residences designed by Italian architects whereof Lord Valentia wrote, in 1803 :—"On a line with Government House is a range of excellent houses chunamed and ornamented with verandahs. Chowringhee, an entire village of palaces, runs for a considerable length at right angles with it, and altogether forms the finest view I ever beheld in my life." A decade earlier Chowringhee could only boast twenty-four houses. Midway the fashionable thoroughfare is commanded by a fine statue of

Lieut.-General Sir James Outram, styled the Bayard of the Indian Army. This gallant officer refused to deprive Sir Henry Havelock of the glory of relieving the Residency at Lucknow. His record is a memorable one. He was selected by Mountstuart Elphinstone to subdue the wild tribes of Western and Central India. He served in the Afghan campaign, which drove Dost Muhammad from Kabul, and was appointed Political Agent on the North-West Frontier. Subsequently he filled similar posts in the South Maratha country at Satara, and later at Baroda and Oudh. His statue is by J. H. Foley, R.A., and was unveiled by the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Napier of Magdala, on Queen Victoria's birthday, 1874. During the Mutiny Napier had been Outram's secretary. A little further south rises the Bengal Club, a handsome dome-crowned edifice. The great Macaulay lived in the central portion when Law Member of Council from 1834 to 1838. Still more to the south is Theatre Road, so called from the old theatre, which stood at the corner of Chowringhee from 1813 until 1839, when it was destroyed by fire. Male characters were taken by amateurs assisted by professional actresses, who received a monthly salary and resided on the premises. Originally Chowringhee was tree-shaded and formed part of the old pilgrim route leading from Murshidabad to Kalighat.

### ALIPORE.

To reach Alipore it is necessary to cross Tolly's Nallah, a muddy stream held sacred by Hindus as part of the Ganges, hence its historical and religious name of Adi-Ganga. It has also been styled Govindpur Creek and

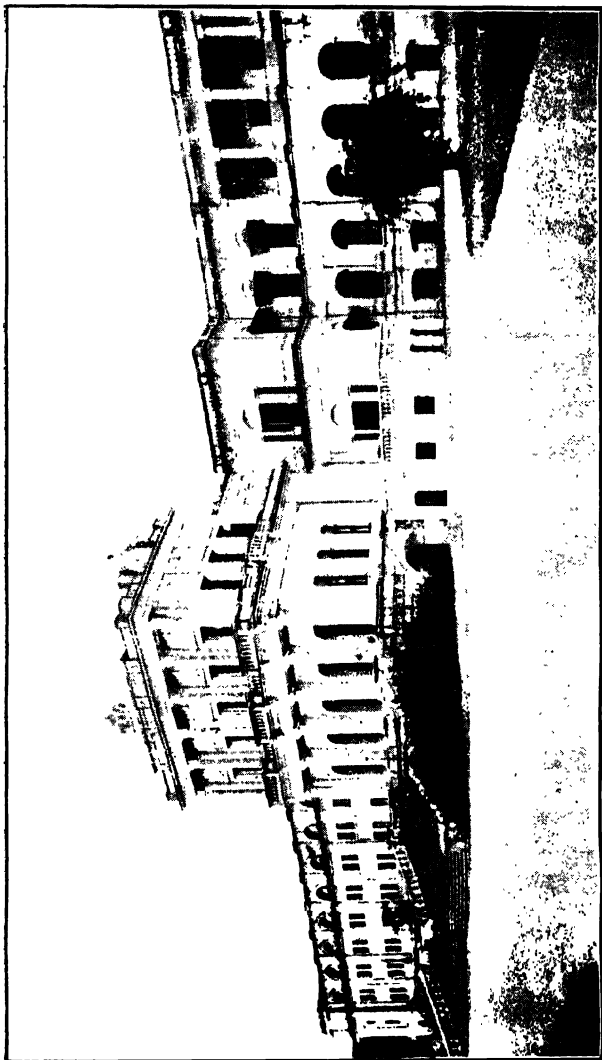
Surman's Nallah. The latter designation commemorates Edward Surman, head of the mission to the Emperor Ferrukhseiyar's court at Delhi, in 1715. Surman owned a garden house in the neighbourhood now termed Hastings, and is said to have deepened the Creek, which, in 1775, was leased to Major Tolly, an Engineer, for ten years. He kept it in navigable condition and levied tolls upon all passing craft.

Alipore became a popular and wealthy suburb under Warren Hastings, who resided there, in preference to Government House on the Esplanade, and only went into Calcutta to transact business. There, too, lived Barwell, his friend and supporter in Council as did Philip Francis, their bitter enemy and political opponent. When, in 1854, the lower provinces of Bengal were constituted a separate Government Alipore was selected for the official residence of the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal. Simultaneously it became the headquarters of the Presidency Division, as it already was of the Twenty-four Pergunnahs. An Indian regiment was permanently stationed here. Alipore contains the great District Jail, the Army Clothing Factory, Government Telegraph Storeyards and Workshops and the Vaccination Station. Near Alipore bridge stood the two famous "Trees of Destruction," which constituted the favourite meeting place for duels.

### ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

These lie to right of the road, a little south of Zeerut, or Ziarat Bridge. They owe their existence to Sir Richard Temple, Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, and were opened by the King-Emperor Edward VII, as Prince of





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BELVEDERE HOUSE, ALIPORE.  
Residence of the Lieut.-Governors of Bengal.

Wales, in 1875. The grounds are attractively laid out with a variety of trees, flowers and ornamental water, while the collection of animals, birds and reptiles is unusually fine. Admittance is from sunrise to sunset. On week days a charge of one anna is made. On Sunday this is increased to four annas in the early part of the day, and a rupee in the afternoon.

### BELVEDERE HOUSE.

From 1854 until 1912 Belvedere House was the official residence of the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal. The main entrance faces north, in the direction of Zeerut Bridge. It consists of a lofty white gateway topped by a lioness. The carriage drive sweeps round a wide expanse of tree-planted lawn, to a fine flight of steps guarded by two old brass cannon engraved with the arms of the Honourable East India Company, and cast at Cossipore, in 1856, the year preceding the Mutiny. At the foot of the flight stands a beautiful white marble statue of Lord Curzon, by Pomeroy, the base adorned with sculptured panels. Five small glass doors admit to the hall. The building is two-storeyed and coloured a pale shade of champagne. A double row of pillars adorns the facade, the upper finished with Corinthian capitals and the lower with Ionic. Above the entrance the Royal Arms are well executed between the figures of six nymphs, which perch upon the ledge of the roof. On the south side, statues of the great Clive, Wellesley and Dalhousie stand on a wide verandah overlooking a delightful garden.

Nothing definite seems to be known regarding the date at which Belvedere House was built, nor yet the original



owner. Tradition assigns it to Warren Hastings. In support of this the Reverend Mr. Long is quoted as alluding to "Warren Hastings' house at Belvedere in the rural solitude at Alipore," as far back as 1762. About the same time a Minute, in the Records of Fort William, contains the following:—"Mr. Hastings' house purchased for the reception of the Nawab." Now the Nawab-Nazim of Murshidabad is known to have resided at Belvedere House. Apparently he was the guest, on such occasions, of the Company. When asked to account for certain funds, which he was charged with having misappropriated, Warren Hastings replied that the "Nabob of Bengal" always received a thousand rupees a day for his expenses, whenever he visited Calcutta. Describing a State visit, paid by the Dutch Governor of Chinsurah in 1770, Stavorius writes: "At 6 in the evening Mr. Cartier waited on the Dutch Governor and conducted him to his country seat at Belvedere where he was entertained with an excellent supper." Two years later Cartier resigned the Governorship of Fort William and was succeeded by Warren Hastings. In 1780 Belvedere House was bought by Major Tolly of Nalla fame. On August 17 of that same year Philip Francis was carried wounded to Belvedere after his duel with the Governor-General. Tolly died in 1784. His house was leased to Mr. Brooke for £350 per annum, which rent was payable in London. From 1822 until 1825 General Sir Edward Paget resided at Belvedere, in preference to his official quarters, as Commander-in-Chief, in Fort William. Subsequently the property was purchased by Charles Prinsep, the Advocate-General, and resold by him to the East India Company for eighty thousand

rupees, in 1854. From then until 1912 it was occupied by the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal. Lord Dalhousie assessed the monthly rent at Rs. 500.

Various Lieut.-Governors made substantial additions to Belvedere House. Sir Stewart Bayley constructed the north breakfast-room. Sir Charles Elliot was responsible for the upper storey of the west wing. Electric light was introduced by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and Sir Andrew Fraser built the fine ball-room and supper-room below it.


Pending the completion of the great white marble museum on the Maidan, Belvedere House has been lent to the Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Collection for the storage of pictures and other unique and valuable objects. Mr. F. Harrington, the Art Expert, is in charge. The Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, resides at Belvedere House, when in Calcutta.

### THE DUEL.

Alipore is famous as the scene of the historical duel between Warren Hastings and Philip Francis. The cause was personal even more than political. Constant friction in the Council threatened ruin. This Hastings averted by gaining a promise from Francis not to interfere in his conduct of the Maratha War, then being waged on the Bombay side. When the Governor-General decided to try conclusions with the same enemy on the banks of the Jumna, Francis felt that he was no longer under the obligation of silence, which he had entered into regarding military operations on the Malabar Coast. Accordingly he and Wheler, another Member of Council, drew up a Minute opposing the Governor-General's plan,

and advancing suggestions designed to frustrate his policy. Hastings retaliated with another Minute, in which he forcibly denounced Francis, both in his private and public capacity. In those days, when questions of honour could only be decided at the rapier's point, or by pistols, Francis had no alternative but to challenge Hastings. His second, on the memorable occasion, was Colonel Watson, Chief Engineer. Hastings was supported by Colonel Pearse, Commandant of Artillery in Fort William. The duellists met at 6 A.M. on August 17, 1780, near Mr. Barwell's (the present Kidderpore House to south of St. Stephen's Church) on the road to Alipore, close to where that thoroughfare was crossed by an avenue of trees shading a walk in the grounds of Belvedere House. This was considered too public a place, so the opponents sought a more secluded spot, which Doctor Busteed identifies as just within the northern boundary of the compound of 5, Alipore Road. Other authorities favour the Duel Avenue, between Sterndale Road and the Zoological Gardens, as the site. The duel was fought with pistols, at 14 paces. Both opponents fired simultaneously. Francis fell. He was only slightly wounded. The ball entered the right side. It traversed the muscular part of the shoulder, and came out through the flesh at the left. He was carried to Belvedere House, which was nearer than his own. Francis' country residence was the Lodge, afterwards occupied by the Alipore Magistrate. At that epoch it is described as a modest building of four rooms and a hall. The grounds were very extensive and included the site of the present jail, reformatory and neighbouring edifices. Francis acquired the property in 1775, and sold it for Rs. 80,000 in April, 1780, prior to

sailing for England. His ambition of returning to Bengal as Governor-General was never realised. He died at the age of 74, in his London residence, 4, St. James' Square.

As a child William Makepeace Thackeray, the novelist, lived at the Lodge, Alipore, to which his father removed, on being appointed Collector of the Twenty-four Pergunnahs, when his famous son was only a few months old. 

### THE AGRI-HORTICULTURAL GARDEN.

The garden is entered from the east side of Alipore Road, and once formed part of the pleasure grounds surrounding Belvedere House. Immediately within the gate stretches an ornamental tank overlooked by a white pedestal and bust inscribed: -- "William Carey, D.D., founder of the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, 1820." The monument commemorates a very remarkable man. A cobbler by trade, William Carey was also a preacher of the gospel. He and his associates founded the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792. In the following year he came out to India accompanied by his wife, four children, a sister-in-law, and Thomas, a fellow-missionary. Seven years later Carey, Marshman and Ward established the famous mission at the Danish settlement of Serampore. When Lord Wellesley inaugurated his much-needed Fort William College, for newly joined members of the Company's Civil Service to acquire a knowledge of colloquial languages, Carey was appointed professor of Bengali. He died in 1834, full of years and honours, and was buried at Serampore, the scene of his most brilliant labours.

Formerly the Agri-Horticultural Gardens contained an old Muhammedan mausoleum. It stood at the east side of the tank and was known as the Begum's tomb. Tradition ascribed it to the wife of one of the Nawabs of Murshidabad.

### HASTINGS HOUSE.

The celebrated residence of the first Governor-General occupies a spacious compound on the south side of Judge's Court Road. It consists of a flat-roofed, two-storeyed building, coated with buff-coloured plaster. A one-storeyed wing projects at either end. In the centre white pillars mark the carriage entrance, whence a flight of six steps lead up to the porch. Here a small oval tablet, above the door, is inscribed: "This house, known as Hastings House, originally the country seat of Warren Hastings, Governor-General of Fort William in Bengal, 1774-1785, was bought as a State Guest House by Lord Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, in 1901." In 1915 it was converted into a boys' school, which purpose it continues to serve. The large grounds are grass-planted and shaded with trees. On the east they are bounded by Tolly's Nallah.

Here Warren Hastings lived with his passionately loved second wife, the celebrated Madame Imhoff, and from here wrote those famous love letters to "My dearest Marian," after she sailed for England. The residence was then styled Alipore Gardens and was surrounded by beautiful pleasure grounds planted with cinnamon and other rare and valuable trees, the cultivation of which Hastings was desirous of introducing into Bengal. The property was sold in three lots in 1785, and included

the land now occupied by the Judge's Court. At the same time the Governor-General's famous stud was put up to auction.

### KIDDERPORE HOUSE.

Kidderpore House is a double-storeyed yellow building surrounded by a large garden, on the east side of Diamond Harbour Road. Its historical interest lies in the fact of it having been the country residence of Richard Barwell who, with Warren Hastings, constituted the famous minority in the Governor-General's memorable Council of Five. As such it frequently figures in the chronicles of 18th century Calcutta. It was particularly celebrated for its ball-room. Here came Madame Hastings, Lady Impey, Mrs. Grand, afterwards Princess Talleyrand, Mrs. Fay and every other social belle and literary light of the period. Gambling for high stakes was indulged in, as may be inferred from a letter written by Francis to a friend, in 1776, wherein he states:—"On one blessed day of the present year of our Lord I had won about £20,000 at whist." In spite of this boast of his guest Barwell's gains must have greatly outbalanced his losses, for he amassed an immense fortune by the time that he was thirty-eight. With this he returned to England. He purchased an estate at Stanstead, in Sussex, and seats in Parliament, where he in turn represented St. Ives and Winchelsea. His retirement, in March, 1780, made Francis Senior Member of Council, both Monson and Clavering having died before that date.

Later on Mr. Barwell's house was utilised as the Kidderpore Military Orphanage, an Institution founded in 1782, by Major William Kirkpatrick, for the benefit

of the children of officers and men on the Bengal establishment. Dances were still given in the ball-room. These were widely patronised by bachelors and widowers in search of wives.

### ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH.

Remarkable from afar for its extremely slender spire St. Stephen's Church is next-door neighbour to Kidderpore House. A long narrow garden, with brightly coloured flower beds, separates it from Diamond Harbour Road. It was founded in 1846. Further north still is Kidderpore Bridge. Beyond lies Hastings, known as Surman's Garden in the days when it marked the southerly limit of the Honourable Company's domain. Its popular name of Cooly Bazaar is said to date from the labour settlement, which sprang up on the site in 1757, in connection with the erection of Fort William and the clearing of the Maidan. Near Hastings bridge stood the gallows from which Nuncomar was hung. At present the neighbourhood is chiefly noted as the Depôt of the Supply and Transport Corps, Medical Storekeeper General's Store, Ordnance, etc. It takes its modern appellation from Hastings bridge built in 1833, and named after the Marquis under whose auspices the first iron bridge in India had been constructed, over Tolly's Nallah, in 1822.

### SECOND DAY . . . . . MORNING.

Visit the Stuart Hogg Market, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Victoria Memorial. Proceed *viâ* Lower Circular Road to the Strand, Prinsep's Ghât, Gwalior Monument and Fort William. Enter by the Water Gate.

## THE STUART HOGG MARKET.

To strangers the market is one of the most fascinating places in Calcutta. It is best visited early, as then fruit, vegetable, fish and meat stalls are seen to fullest advantage. The main entrance faces south and is in Lindsay Street, a turning off Chowringhee. The street takes its name from Robert Lindsay, second son of the fifth Earl of Balcarres. He came out to India, as a Writer, in 1772. His subsequent career fully justified the old proverb, "Adventures come to the adventurous." The market is a large red brick building with a frontage of some 300 feet. The many stalls are well arranged in neat rows and contain everything, from a shaving brush to a costly Persian carpet. Chemists, ironmongers, milliners, curio dealers, silversmiths, stationers, drapers, grocers and vendors of chikan work, the fine white embroidery for which Bengal is world famed, are one and all most liberally represented. The motley throng, which surges along the numerous passages, is fully as interesting, and even more characteristic than the wares offered for sale, varied and attractive although these last unquestionably are. Fixed prices are the exception. Bargaining is the rule. The present well ordered mart dates from 1874. It replaces the old bazaar known as Fenwick's Market, a confusion of filthy lanes, and cost about Rs. 6,65,000. Northward it extends to Chowringhee Place.

## OPERA HOUSE.

The Opera House is on the opposite side of Lindsay Street. Here, on New Year's Day, 1876, King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, was present at a performance



of "My Awful Dad," in which the principal part was played by the celebrated comedian, Mr. Charles Matthews. The charge for an upper box was Rs. 1,000, and for a lower Rs. 500. Stalls were Rs. 50 each. From this it would seem that the profiteer is not the "War Baby" he is generally credited with being.

### ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

St. Paul's Cathedral stands near the south-eastern corner of the Maidan, and is a graceful spire-crowned yellow structure of Indo-Gothic design. The foundation-stone was laid on October 8, 1839, by which date the quasi-classical architecture, in vogue under the Georges, was being rapidly superseded in favour of that Gothic revival which formed so striking a characteristic of the Victorian era. Major W. N. Forbes, of the Bengal Engineers, prepared the design and superintended the building. The Cathedral was consecrated on October 8, 1847. From east to west it measures 247 feet. The body of the edifice is 81 feet wide, while the transepts extend 114 feet across. The steeple attains a height of 201 feet, and the battlemented walls 59 feet. Part of the spire fell in the earthquake on June 12, 1897. The original cost of the building amounted to about five lakhs. An additional two and a half lakhs constituted the endowment fund. The East India Company contributed the site and one and a half lakhs of rupees, and appointed two extra Chaplains. Queen Victoria presented a handsome set of silver gilt communion plate. Bishop Daniel Wilson, to whose energy and initiative Calcutta owes the finest Cathedral in India, gave two lakhs of rupees.

The main entrance is at the west end. It is characterised by a large enclosed porch, or verandah, whence stairs lead up to the library. Coming in, by the north-west door, the eye is immediately caught by a handsome mural tablet, on the right, of white marble, to the memory of Lt.-Colonel R. A. Yule, who fell at the head of the 9th Lancers in an encounter in the rear of the British camp at Delhi, on June 19, 1857. He was a brother of the celebrated Sir Henry Yule, of the Bengal Engineers, Editor and Geographer of "The Diary of Sir William Hedges," and the still more famous edition of Marco Polo's Travels, published by the Hakluyt Society. The adjacent tablet is of brass, and commemorates J. W. Quinton, I.C.S., Chief Commissioner of Assam, and those officials with him, who perished in the Manipore Massacre on March 24, 1891. The catastrophe was precipitated by a despatch from the Government of India ordering Mr. Quinton to make an example of the Commander-in-Chief of the Manipore Army, by arresting him in open Darbar, on the charge of engineering a revolution in the palace. Accordingly the British delegates proceeded to Manipore. Upon arrival they were besieged at the Residency and compelled to surrender at discretion. From there they were taken to the courtyard of the palace and beheaded. To right of the door is the Vestry, its walls hung with portraits of different Bishops and Archdeacons. Here the Communion Plate, presented by Queen Victoria, may be seen upon application to the Verger.

Not far distant, on the left, is a memorial tablet to Lieutenant William Anderson, 1st Bombay Fusiliers, and Patrick A. Vans Agnew, Bengal Civil Service, murdered

beneath the walls of Multan, on April 19, 1848, under peculiarly dramatic circumstances. The epitaph is from the pen of Macaulay. Their death was avenged as they had predicted. The citadel was stormed and their bodies interred on the summit with military honours. The war which resulted concluded with the annexation of the Panjab, on March 29, 1849. At the north corner of the east wall is a tablet to Colonel R. B. Smith, C.B., Master of the Calcutta Mint, and A.D.-C. to Queen Victoria. He married a daughter of the celebrated de Quincy and died in 1861.

The large white marble statue of Bishop Heber, by Chantrey, occupies a commanding position in the vestibule. Originally it was placed on the eastern verandah of St. John's Church, whence it was removed to the present site by Bishop Wilson. On the north wall, behind the statue, is a handsome memorial to James Bruce, eighth Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Viceroy of India, who died at Dharamsala in 1863. The design introduces a white marble portrait medallion above four bronze panels in high relief. Near to it is a head of Sir Henry Montgomery Lawrence, the heroic defender of the Residency, Lucknow, who fell on July 4, 1857. The Lawrence Military Asylum at Murree, in the Panjab, and a similar institution at Ootacamund, in the Nilgiri Mountains, perpetuate his name. Further west a tablet commemorates Mr. J. Paxton Norman, of the Inner Temple, acting Chief Justice, who was assassinated on September 20, 1870, as he was mounting the northern steps of the Town Hall. Close by is a beautiful white marble font to the memory of Sir Herbert Cameron Carnduff. To south-west is a tablet to Major-

General Forbes, architect of the Cathedral and Mint, who died at Aden in 1855. Above is an arched balcony its walls lined with books. These constitute the famous Cathedral Library bequeathed by Bishop Wilson. Here, too, is the beautiful brass clock presented to him in June, 1832, by the parishioners of St. Mary's, Islington. The splendid west window was designed by Sir Edward Burne Jones and is a memorial to Lord Mayo, the Viceroy assassinated, in 1870, at Port Blair, in the Andaman Islands.

To south of Heber's statue is a side chapel, and more mural tablets. A glass case on the north wall, near the altar, contains the old colours of the Alipore Regiment, the 18th Bengal Infantry. These were deposited by Colonel Toker, in 1886, after new colours had been presented by Lady Dufferin.

The passage connecting the vestibule with the body of the Cathedral displays a marble memorial, on its northern wall, to Sir John Woodburn, Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, who died at Belvedere House in 1902. Facing it is a brass tablet erected by Lord Curzon, Honorary Colonel of Lumsden's Horse, to officers and men of the Regiment who fell in the South African War. The force was raised by Lieut.-Colonel D. M. Lumsden and left Calcutta, 250 strong, in February, 1900.

No mural tablets appear in the body of the Cathedral. The walls are tinted a delicate shade of turquoise blue and cream. The slightly arched ceiling is sage green with rose ornaments in white and gold relief. The windows are fitted with small lozenge-shaped panes of light green and clear glass. By a curious arrangement the pews facing the altar are supplemented by three graduated

rows of seats which run along the side walls. The floor is paved with black and white marble in a chess-board design.

The Governor's seat is on the south side and consists of a raised box surmounted by a canopy and the Royal Arms. The two arm-chairs are upholstered in maroon velvet. Six seats, ranged in a row below, constitute the first pew, and are reserved for Government House. The Bishop's throne occupies the south-east corner. Above it towers an elaborately carved wooden spire. The great east window is of stained glass and replaces an earlier one presented by the Dean and Chapter of Windsor, and unfortunately broken in the cyclone of 1864. The original window was designed by Benjamin West, R.A., for King George III, who gave it to St. George's Chapel, Windsor, where it was found impossible to fit it into the space available. Subsequently it was utilised for St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta.

All along the east end, behind the altar, runs a splendid and brilliantly coloured series of scriptural scenes portrayed in mosaic and framed in red and white alabaster. The design is by Sir A. Blomfield, R.A. One panel commemorates Bishop Cotton, founder of the well-known schools at Simla and Bangalore, which bear his name. He was drowned in the Ganges, at Kooshtea, in 1866. To north-west of the altar a floor tablet marks the vault wherein lies Doctor Daniel Wilson, fifth Bishop of Calcutta and first Metropolitan of India, *obit* 1858.

The Bishop's Palace stands on the eastern side of Chowringhee looking towards the Cathedral.

### VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL.

The proposal to erect a superb memorial hall to Queen Victoria originated with Lord Curzon, in 1901. The design was completed by Sir William Emerson, in 1903. Messrs. Martin and Company of Calcutta are the builders, and the cost is estimated at sixty lakhs of rupees, which sum has been raised by public subscription. Government gave the site to west of St. Paul's Cathedral. It was formerly occupied by the old jail, famous in history as the prison wherein Nuncomar was confined. The King-Emperor George V laid the foundation-stone of the new building, in 1906. His Majesty paid it a visit of inspection on his return to Calcutta in 1912.

The palatial white memorial is in the form of a square surmounted by a lofty central dome. Small kiosks cap the square corner turrets. The main entrance is on the north and is approached by a causeway flanked by tanks of ornamental water. Here stands a statue of the great Queen-Empress. Further north is a magnificent bronze statue of Lord Curzon in peer's robes, raised high upon a lofty stone pedestal supported by a terrace approached by eight steps. At the four corners are handsome allegorical groups depicting Commerce, Peace, Agriculture and Famine Relief. When complete the hall will receive the Victoria Memorial Collection at present housed at Belvedere. As such it will be a national museum of unrivalled historical interest. The pictures include a masterpiece by Verestchagin, the great Russian battle painter. It is of unusual size and depicts the State visit of the King-Emperor Edward VII to Jaipur, in 1875. The Royal procession is seen passing the familiar Hawa Mahal, or Palace of the Winds. King Edward, then

Prince of Wales, is seated on the foremost elephant beside his host, the Maharaja of Jaipur. Behind, on a second elephant, rides Sir Bartle Frere, Governor of Bombay. The bearded figure, on the third elephant, is General Sam Browne, the originator of the well-known Sam Browne belt. The picture was presented to the Collection by the Maharaja of Jaipur. A particularly beautiful series of water-colour sketches, of Indian scenes and personages, is the work of Lord Auckland's gifted sisters, the Misses Eden, to whom Calcutta owes Eden Gardens. The Collection includes a chair belonging to Warren Hastings' famous set of ivory drawing-room furniture. Mr. C. B. Bayley, c.v.o., is Secretary, and Mr. F. Harrington, Art Expert to the Collection.

The waste ground to south of the Victoria Memorial served as an aerodrome for the Italian aeroplanes participating in the famous Rome to Tokio flight during the spring of 1920.

### THE RACE-COURSE.

The Race-course lies to west of the Victoria Memorial. Racing was early in vogue in old Calcutta; but the Royal Calcutta Turf Club, 11, Russell Street, was not established until 1861. The racing season starts in November and continues until the middle of March. There is also racing during the Monsoon. Betting on the totalisators is Rs. 10, Rs. 5, Rs. 3, respectively, according to the enclosure.

### PRINSEP'S CHAT.

This handsome yellow pavilion stands near the southern end of Strand Road. It was erected in the forties, by the citizens of Calcutta, to the memory of James Prinsep,

Deputy Master of the Mint, one of the most eminent men of his day. At that epoch it was intended as a State landing-stage in place of the historical one at Chandpal Ghât. The pair of lions, on the western side, guarded the top of the flight of steps running down to the river, which flowed very much more to the east than it does now. Here landed King Edward VII when, as Prince of Wales, he visited Calcutta in 1875. Here, too, his ill-fated nephew, the late Emperor Nicholas of Russia, stepped ashore, as did every Viceroy until Lord Curzon departed from precedent by electing to arrive at Bombay and come on to Calcutta by rail. Possibly the most stirring scene ever enacted at Prinsep's Ghât occurred early on the morning of January 9, 1858. On that date the steamer "Madras" brought back the few survivors of the heroic Lucknow garrison. They presented a pathetic spectacle : women and children in deep mourning, and sick and wounded carried on stretchers. The guns of Fort William greeted them with a Royal salute, as did the ships in the harbour, which were dressed in their honour.

James Prinsep, after whom the Ghât was named, was seventh son of John Prinsep, founder of the indigo industry in Bengal. He, himself, was Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint and originated the science of Indian numismatics and directed attention to the necessity of deciphering rock-cut inscriptions and the famous edicts of Asoka. Jacquemont wrote of him, in 1832 :—"He devoted his mornings to architectural plans and drawings, his days to assaying at the Mint, and his evenings to musical concerts." He died at the comparatively early age of forty.



## LORD NAPIER.

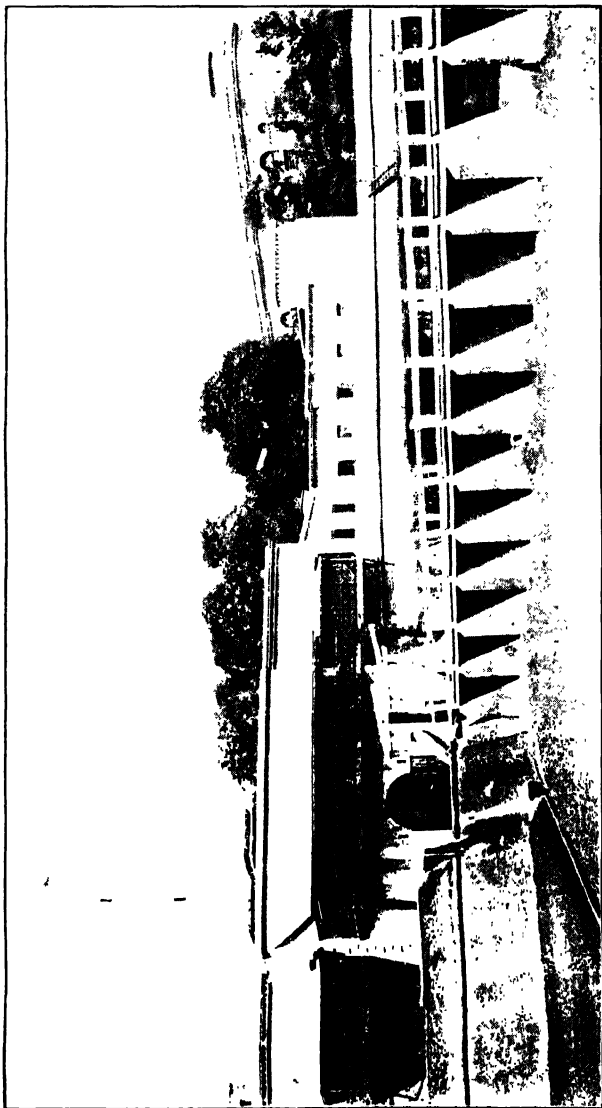
The fine equestrian statue, opposite Prinsep's Ghât, is by Sir Edgar Boehm. It represents Lord Napier, Commander-in-Chief from 1870 until 1876. As a subaltern in the Bengal Engineers Lord Napier laid out the hill station of Darjeeling, and constructed the road from the plains some 7,000 feet below. Upon the death of Lord Elgin, at Dharamsala, Lord Napier officiated as Viceroy pending the arrival, in Calcutta, of Sir William Denison, Governor of Madras.

## THE GWALIOR MONUMENT.

To north of Prinsep's Ghât stands an octagonal monument topped by a massive bronze dome, above a small tomb-shaped cenotaph. The lower storey is of brick faced with Jaipur marble. The kiosk is 58 feet 6 inches high, and was erected by Lord Ellenborough to the memory of those officers and men who fell during the Gwalior campaign in 1843. Their names are engraved upon the cenotaph in the middle, together with the victories which they gained at Maharajpore and Punniar, twelve miles from Gwalior. Both engagements were fought on the same day, namely, December 29, 1843, and were fiercely contested by the Marathas. The sixty-four guns captured were melted down to construct the dome and pillars of the memorial.

## FORT WILLIAM.

Fort William occupies a central position on the river bank, to west of the Maidan. Captain Brohier, the Company's Chief Engineer at Madras, drew up the design



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COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S QUARTERS, TREASURY GATE, FORT WILLIAM.

*Photo by Johnston and Hoffmann.*



on a somewhat elaborate scale. He arrived at Calcutta in July, 1757, but a little time elapsed before a suitable site was selected. A General letter, dated January 10, 1758, asserts :—"Citadel.—Captain Brohier having altered his choice of the spot for it to Govindpore all the inhabitants have been removed thence and will be paid for their brick houses, the inhabitants of thatched ones will be compensated and allowed ground elsewhere." A second communication, written on January 28, 1758, runs :—"Our works are now carried on with great vigour and despatch, many thousands of people being at work." The stronghold was completed in 1773 at a cost of two million pounds sterling. Thirty years later Lord Valentia wrote of it :—"The citadel of Fort William is a very fine work but greatly too large for defence." As a matter of fact it was designed to accommodate 15,000 men and mounted 615 guns.

Brohier's stronghold is an irregular octagon, three points of which command the river and five the land. A ditch, 50 feet wide and about 30 feet deep, surrounds the low walls. It can be flooded from the Hughli. The six entrances are respectively entitled the Calcutta Gate, Plassey Gate, Chowringhee Gate, Treasury Gate, St. George's Gate and Water Gate. In addition there is a small sally port between the two last mentioned.

The Water Gate lies to north-east of the Gwalior Monument. Entering here a good idea of the interior of the Fort is gained by driving under the walls past the Arsenal and Queen's Barracks to the Calcutta Gate, where the Main Guard and Brigade Offices are situated. Continuing to Chowringhee Gate a flagstaff is seen above the quarters of the General Officer Commanding the Brigade.

These are situated over the gate, which is guarded by a couple of large guns and Ford's Ravelin, where a stone tablet, under a spreading banyan tree, bears the inscription "Ford's Ravelin 1770." A little further on is the King's Bastion. Exactly opposite the eye is caught by an unusually large brass 18-pdr. cannon. It measures 20 feet 10 inches in length and weighs seven tons. This great gun was cast at Poona. in 1771, and captured by General Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington, at Ahmadnagar, in 1803. Near by is Treasury Gate, over which were the quarters of the Commander-in-Chief. As such they were occupied by those popular military heroes Roberts and Kitchener. Now they are utilised as a British Infantry Mess.

Continuing along the Esplanade under the ramparts the Bomb-proof Block is reached. This provides barracks for the Indian regiment stationed in the Fort. Beyond lies St. George's Gate, and the Semaphore Tower, a curious six-storeyed edifice behind the Duke of Gloucester's Demi-Bastion.

From St. George's Gate a straight road runs to the Garrison Church of St. Peter's, the foundation-stone of which was laid in 1822. Slender twin towers spring from either end. The walls are lined with memorial tablets to officers and men who fell in long forgotten battles. As early as 1764 the Court of Directors wrote :—"We would have you postpone building the Church at your Presidency till the accommodation for the Company's servants, barracks for the soldiers and every other building is completed."

The large double-storeyed yellow building, with green shutters, to south-west, bears a white marble tablet, to

left of the entrance, inscribed :—“This house was built for the Governor-General and was sometimes occupied by him. Bishop Heber was accommodated in it by Lord Amherst when he first arrived in India in October, 1823.” Near the inscription is a curious old brass gun of Mughul manufacture. The one-time residence of the Governor-General is now utilised as a Soldiers’ Institute, and Mess for Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants. Further east is St. Patrick’s Chapel. Behind it rises a gloomy building, in turn a granary, military prison and married quarters. Mounting the steps an inscribed tablet is found on the outer wall. It reads :—“This building contains 51,258 maunds of rice and 20,023½ maunds of paddy, which were deposited here by order of the Governor-General and Council under the inspection and charges of John Belli, Agent. for providing victualling stores to the garrison in the months of March, April and May, 1782.” It may here be noted that Warren Hastings was not elevated to the dignity of Governor-General until 1784.

The interior of the Fort is well laid out and admirably kept. Many of the trees have labels attached giving their names.

SECOND DAY . . . . . AFTERNOON.

### VISIT THE THREE JAIN TEMPLES.

Although limited in number the Jains of Calcutta form a wealthy and powerful community. The three temples of their faith are situated to north-east of the city, and are reached by Upper Circular Road. On the way Sealdah Station is passed on the right. The

pointed obelisk in front of it is a memorial to employes of the railway, who fell during the recent world war, 1914-18. Further north two gaily coloured masonry pillars are seen on the right marking the turning into Halsi Bagan Road, so named after the 18th-century garden house belonging to Amin Chaund, wherein Siraj-ud-Daulah, Nawab of Bengal, took up his residence when attacking Calcutta. One of the square pillars is inscribed:—"Road to the Temple Garden of Rai Buddree Dass Bahadur, Mukim to H. E. the Viceroy."

In less than five minutes the slender spires of two lofty white shrines are seen rising to north and south of the road. The former is the celebrated temple of Shri Shetalnathji, tenth of the twenty-four Tirthankaras, or Jain deities. It is entered through a large triple-storeyed gate-house faced with brilliantly coloured tiles, and further enlivened by brightly painted iron balconies and vivid plaster. An inscription, on an inner post of this remarkable portico, announces that the shrine was erected in 1867 by Rai Buddree Dass Bahadur, Mukim to the Viceroy. Within stretches a garden so strange and fantastical as to suggest, in dream fashion, a sun-kissed and enchanted realm far removed from a world of prosaic realities. The eastern end contains a placid green lake, which reflects its surroundings as in a mirror. From the centre rises a fountain supported by female figures. To north is the Shish Mahal, or Palace of Mirrors. Floor, walls, ceiling and chandeliers are of glittering many-coloured crystal. Beyond slumbers a second fairy-like garden, wherein stands a white marble memorial pavilion to the mother of Buddree Dass. Both the outer and

inner courts are screened by high encircling ramparts of raspberry red overlooked by tall slender turrets at frequent intervals. It is very silent but for the cooing of doves, and the screech of gorgeously hued peacocks. These last strut about and preen themselves among the flower-beds, statues innumerable water-courses, cascades and fountains of the most elaborate and involved garden ever devised by human ingenuity. Above all soars the temple raised high on a white marble terrace approached by thirteen steps of marble and mosaic. Glittering many-coloured glass forms the fantastical verandah, while the spire achieves a kaleidoscopic effect by means of mosaic. Richly wrought gilt pillars encircle the sanctum sanctorum, where the white marble deity dwells eternally garlanded with fresh roses upon an altar of iridescent crystal illumined by a hundred lights.

To east is the third great Jain temple. The approach is through a pleasant garden, palm shaded and watered by a large ornamental lake. A gate to north-east leads to the inner court. Here the air is fragrant with the perfume of Champa blooms. This mingles with the scent of many roses piled high on a tray before the presiding deity, Mahabir, or Mahavira, last of the twenty-four Tirthankaras. His emblem is a lion, and his temple is yellow, crowned by numerous clustering spires.

Nothing definite is known about the origin of the Jains. Their religion is believed to date from about the sixth century B. C. and to be contemporaneous with Buddhism. Their cardinal maxim is "Ahimsa parama dharma." Translated this means "Regard for life is the highest virtue." Marwar is looked upon as the cradle



of their sect. Many Jains are also found in Guzarat. They are mostly merchants and bankers. Their tenets include belief in reincarnation, and worship of innumerable deified mortals of whom the twenty-four Tirthankaras, or Liberated Ones, are the chief. Each is represented in a contemplative posture of repose with a distinguishing mark or emblem. The Jains go round praying to them after the manner of Hindus in Hindu temples. Twenty-two of these Tirthankaras belong to the age of giants, and are described as having voluntarily come down from Heaven and assumed mortal shape for the benefit of mankind. The last two come within the range of historical possibility. These respectively founded the two sects known as Setambaras, or Clothed and the Digambaras, or Naked. The latter belong to an exaggerated order of ascetics and offer their bodies as food for insects. No Jain would willingly deprive any creature of life.

Barabazaar is their stronghold in Calcutta. Here they deal largely in cloths and jewels. Their annual procession from Barabazaar to the three Jain temples is considered the finest in the city.

### CIRCULAR CANAL.

Immediately to east flows the Circular Canal, its mud banks green with trees and its bronze-hued water laden with curious house-boats shaped like clumsy canoes, but intensely picturesque, with their thatched roofs and ornamental brass work. Their design has altered not a whit since the days when the power of the Great Moghuls extended from Kabul to the Bay of Bengal.

## THIRD DAY . . . . MORNING.

Visit the Indian Museum, Chowringhee, and Park Street Cemeteries.

## INDIAN MUSEUM.

The Indian Museum in Chowringhee occupies the site of the Old High School transferred to Darjeeling in 1863, and renamed St. Paul's School. The present edifice was opened in 1875. Designed by Granville, architect to Government, it is an imposing pile with a frontage of 300 feet and a depth of 270 feet. Admittance is free between the hours of 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. Thursday and Friday mornings are reserved for students. Thursday afternoon is sacred to purdah ladies.

The Ajib Khana, or House of Wonders, is built about a quadrangular court. It is encircled by inner verandahs which run round all four sides. The ground floor contains a magnificent archæological collection. Buddhist art is particularly well represented, notably the famous Barhut sculptures which, thanks to their inscription, have supplied the key to the teachings and history of one of the most fascinating schools of religious thought. Barhut, where General Cunningham discovered the famous stupa in 1873, lies between Allahabad and Jubbulpore, about nine miles from the railway station at Sutna.

On entering the museum the first room to left contains a geological collection. The second is devoted to meteorites, rocks and maps. Here a guide is in attendance on Monday and Friday. Minerals, rocks and economics occupy the third section which is on the northern side. Beyond is a room where centipedes, scorpions

and spiders are preserved in glass phials. From its eastern end stairs lead up to what the ordinary man will consider the most interesting exhibition in the Museum. This includes admirably modelled figures of strange Eastern types, aborigines of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, tribes from the Naga Hills, Assam, etc., as well as their boats, weapons, armour, musical instruments and models of their houses, and implements.

Returning to the ground floor, the east side is devoted to invertebrates, and the south and part of the west to archæology. On the next storey the west gallery contains the library of the Zoological Survey of India. The south displays birds and reptiles. At its western end two steps lead down to the intensely interesting art gallery where attention is at once attracted by the great gold throne, or Hlutdaw of Thibaw, King of Burma from 1878 until 1885. It was removed from the Royal Palace to its present position by Lord Curzon in 1903. The east and north galleries respectively contain large and small mammals.

### PARK STREET.

Park Street dates from 1767. It was originally known as Burial Ground Road from having been made to the new English cemetery opened in that year. At its north-western corner, near Chowringhee, are the premises of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, founded in January, 1784, under the auspices of Warren Hastings. The site of the building was granted free by the Honourable Company. Sir William Jones was the first President of the famous Society. The thoroughfare owes its modern appellation to the park which surrounded Sir Elijah Impey's

residence, now the Loretto Convent in Middleton Row to south. At the entrance a mural tablet bears the following inscription:—"This house was the garden house of Mr. Henry Vansittart, Governor of Bengal, 1760-64. It was occupied by Sir Elijah Impey, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Calcutta, 1774-82, and also by Bishop Heber for a few months, in 1824."

The large yellow building, on the right of Park Street, distinguished by a lofty flight of steps and classical portico, is St. Xavier's College, a celebrated educational institute owned by the Jesuits. Originally it was the Sans Souci Theatre. Here the well-known actress, Mrs. Esther Leach, met with a fatal accident on the night of November 2, 1843. While waiting in the wings her dress caught on fire. She rushed on to the stage shrieking for help. Subsequently she was carried to her house next door, afterwards the Archbishop's Palace, where she died.

### TIRETTA'S CEMETERY.

Known as Tiretta's, or the French cemetery, this old campo santo is the first to west of the four graveyards for which the locality is celebrated. The site was bought by Edward Tiretta, an Italian from Treviso near Venice, who left his country, then under Austrian rule, for political reasons. In Calcutta he became Superintendent of Streets and Buildings. He owned Tiretta's Bazaar, in Chitpore Road, well known to animal and bird fanciers. The oldest tomb is that of his 18-year old wife, Angelica, *obit* 1796. She was a daughter of Count de Carrion and was first buried in the Roman Catholic graveyard at Sealdah, whence he removed her to the present site. She is surrounded by other foreigners, among

whom is Vicomtesse Adeline de Facier, widow of a French nobleman who served under the celebrated Sikh leader, Ranjit Singh, and his successors.

### MISSION CEMETERY.

A short distance further on, past McLeod Street, is the Mission Cemetery. Here the chief object of interest is the tall blue monument marking the family vault of John Zachariah Kiernander, the first Protestant Missionary to Bengal, and founder of the famous Beth Tophilla, or House of Prayer, in Mission Row. He sleeps beside his two wives, both of whom were wealthy. The first died in 1761. She was a sister of Colonel Fischer, of the Madras Army. The Mission Church was chiefly erected with her money. His second wife, Mrs. Anna Wooley, died in 1773. She bequeathed her jewels to the Mission. They were sold and the proceeds used to build the adjoining school. He survived to be 88 years of age, and died in 1799.

### SOUTH PARK STREET CEMETERY.

Visitors to India will see no more curious or remarkable sight than this extraordinary graveyard. Entrance to it is on the right of the road. The enclosure occupies a considerable area and is crowded with a confusion of immense tombs. The impression created is weird, almost grotesque, nor is it lessened by the knowledge that many of the memorials are of unique historical and literary interest. The most conspicuous is the mammoth obelisk towering above the remains of Sir William Jones, first President of the Asiatic Society, who arrived at Calcutta, in 1783, as a Puisne Judge.

A tomb, about which much is written, is a graceful fluted column garlanded with roses, each festoon linked by a pendant torch, and inscribed:—

“In memory of the Hon. Rose Aylmer, who departed this life, March 23 A.D., 1800, aged 20 years.

“What was her fate? Long long before her hour  
Death called her tender soul by break of bliss  
From the first blossoms to the buds of joy?  
Those few our noxious fate unblasted leave  
In this inclement clime of human life.”

Miss Aylmer owes her post-mortem fame to the pen of Walter Savage Lander, whom she met in Wales when he was about twenty-one, and had just left Oxford. A friendship sprang up between them. She lent him a novel, by Clara Reeve, which inspired his famous poem “Gebir,” so much admired by Southey and Shelley. Her father was the fourth Baron Aylmer. His daughter came out to Calcutta to her aunt, the wife of Sir Henry Russell, after whom Russell Street is named. Here she died on the site now covered by Golightly House. On learning the news, Lander wrote the celebrated lines commencing:—

“Ah! what avails the sceptred race?  
Ah! what the form divine?  
What every virtue, every grace?  
Rose Aylmer all were thine.”

The neighbouring grave also claims distinguished literary associations. Here lies Captain Wm. Mackay, *obit* 1804. His narrative of the shipwreck of the “Juno” lost in a gale in May, 1795, between Madras and Rangoon, was read by Byron when a schoolboy. It so

impressed his youthful imagination that it subsequently served as model for his description of the shipwreck in "Don Juan." Both General Clavering and Colonel Monson, the associates of Francis in Council, are buried here, as is Captain Cook, a son of the famous navigator, and himself a distinguished naval officer. Here, too, lie the bones of Colonel Kyd, founder of the Botanical Gardens in 1786. His funeral was attended by the Governor-General, Sir John Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth, and all the élite of Calcutta. He was buried to right of the entrance gate. By a strange omission the tombstone, a large oblong slab, bore no inscription. With time it came to serve as floor for a gardener's hut and finally disappeared.

Miss Sophia Goldbourne wrote in 1785:—"The Bengal burying grounds (for there are two of them) bear a melancholy testimony to the truth of my observations on the short date of existence in this climate. Obelisks, pagodas, etc., are erected at great expense. There is no difference between the two grounds, but in the expense of the monuments, which denote that persons of large fortune are there interred and *vice versá*. In order to preserve this difference in the appearance the first rank pay Rs. 500, and the second, Rs. 300 for opening the ground. and they are disjoined merely by a broad road."

#### NORTH PARK STREET CEMETERY.

The second cemetery referred to by Miss Goldbourne lies just across the way, on the north side. In it sleeps Lieut.-Colonel Achilles Kirkpatrick, British Resident at Hyderabad, where he was popularly known as Musheirat







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*Photo by Johnston and Hoffm.*

**THE TEMPLE OF KALL. PATRON GODDESS OF CALCUTTA**

Jung, or Glorious in Battle. Not far from his tomb is a square brick monument of ponderous masonry. This is the grave of Richmond Thackeray, the great novelist's father. Near the small gate leading into the Mission Cemetery sleeps William Jones, *obit* September 23, 1821. He built Bishops College, at Sibpur, the first Catholic edifice ever erected in India.

The first interment occurred on August 25, 1767, and was that of John Wood, a writer. A consultation of the same date records:—"The President acquaints the Board that the New Burying Ground, near Mr. Vansittart's Garden, being now ready, they desire the clergyman to consecrate it, as the sickly season approaches," *i.e.*, the rains.

THIRD DAY . . . . . AFTERNOON.

### VISIT KALIGHAT.

The temple of Kali, patron goddess of Calcutta, is a short distance to south-east of Alipore, whence it is reached by Kalighat Bridge across Tolly's Nallah. Its origin dates back to those misty days of tradition, when the Ganges swept past its walls in a mighty flood. In that Golden Age of gods and sages, four toes, severed from the dead body of Sati by the chakra of Vishnu, fell on the site now covered by the shrine. On account of these sacred relics the spot is held in extraordinary veneration by Hindus of every denomination, and has been from time immemorial. Kali and Sati are synonymous terms. Both apply to the consort of Siva, third person of the Trimurti, or Divine Triad, of whom Brahma, the Creator, is the first, and Vishnu, the Preserver, the second.

The approach from Kalighat Bridge is through a long crowded bazaar of a typically Hindu character. This leads to Kali Temple Road, a broad thoroughfare. Its eastern extremity is marked by a large tank, in the muddy green waters of which devotees perform their ablutions. Rows of beggars squat on the pavement in front of the small door, which admits to a narrow passage leading under high encircling walls to the shrine. A raised verandah runs round the sanctuary, a square grey edifice, its curious canopy-shaped dome enlivened by yellow, green and blue paint. The court is thronged with worshippers. In the north-eastern corner a Champa tree is literally covered with stones. These are tied to its branches by many coloured threads and represent votive offerings from women desirous of sons. Further tributes, in the shape of hair, are piled up around the root. Sadhus, or religious ascetics, squat under the branches telling their beads, or plunged in mystic contemplation. Each has a beggar's bowl by his side. Further on the enclosure opens out. Bulls wander amid the motley crowd. Yogis squat on the ground in front of fires, which fill the flower-perfumed air with smoke. Above the babel of voices sound the beating of tomtoms, the shrill falsetto of singers, and the occasional clanging of bells. To south a group of women sit sharpening large knives upon blocks of wood. Near by the stone pavement is stained an ominous red. This is the place of sacrifice where some forty or more goats are slaughtered daily. The grim ~~office~~ is filled by a blacksmith, who receives the heads, and a few pice in payment. Immediately to north of the spot is the music hall, where an orchestra is constantly

in attendance. It is divided from the shrine of the goddess by a narrow passage. Here a glimpse may be caught of Kali, a black figure with four arms, three red eyes and a pointed scarlet tongue, the tip of which reaches to her waist. Round her neck is a chain of human skulls, and garlands of heavily perfumed flowers. Her festival is celebrated with much splendour at the Durga Puja, in September-October.

Although the sanctity of Kalikshetra dates back to pre-historic times the present sanctuary is little more than a century old, having been erected, in 1809, by Santosh Roy of Barisa, near Calcutta. A priest named Chandi-bar was placed in charge. His descendants assumed the patronymic of Halidar and still manage the affairs of the temple. They occupy the large mansion that stretches along the south side of the courtyard. Smaller shrines attract a limited number of devotees. The place is a favorite resort of Sannyasis and Yogis. It figures largely in ancient writ, notably in the Markandeya Purana and the Tantrasara.

Early Christian missionaries inveighed against it on the ground that, in the old days of the Company, English merchants gave largely to the shrine in the hope of receiving assistance from the goddess to whom countless miracles are attributed. The Revd. Ward wrote:—"At Kalighat, near Calcutta, is a celebrated image of this goddess. The daily offerings are astonishingly numerous. On days when the weather is unfavourable not less than 320 lbs. of rice, 24 of sugar, 40 of sweetmeats, 12 of clarified butter, 10 of flour, 10 quarts of milk, a peck of peas, and 800 plantains are offered and 8 or 10 goats sacrificed. At great festivals 40 times this quantity

is offered, and 40 or 50 buffaloes and 1,000 goats are slain. Raja Naba Krishna of Calcutta, about 50 years ago, when on a visit to Kalighat, expended, it is said, not less than Rs. 1,00,000 on the worship of the goddess. Amongst the offerings was a gold necklace valued at Rs. 10,000, a rich bed, silver plates, dishes and basins." The good missionary goes on to lament :—" I have received accounts of Europeans going to this temple and expending Rs. 10,000 in offerings. Very lately a gentleman, in the Honourable Company's service, who had gained a cause at law, presented thankofferings to Kali which cost Rs. 3,000."

It is doubtful whether the modern visitor to the shrine will feel inspired to contribute such generous sums. At the same time, he will do well to provide himself with a pocket full of small coins.

### BURNING GHAT.

Passing out through the west gate, which is surmounted by a musicians' gallery, a road is reached. This leads between shrines and shops, where the wares displayed are chiefly images and pictures of Kali, to the stone steps of Kalighat, constructed by Huzuri Mull in the 18th century. Here devotees perform their ablutions in the sacred waters of the Adi-Ganga, profanely styled Tolly's Nallah. Turning southward along the bank a richly-painted pavilion is traversed. This stretches above the stream in a series of brilliantly coloured arcades, and is styled Chetty's Ghât. A large pipal tree is passed. Its green branches shade a nagakal, or snake tablet, a mystical votive offering from a woman desirous of a son. Thereafter the priest leads the way through a labyrinth

of passages and down Tollygunge Road, whence he strikes to the right, into a narrow paved walk. This flanks a long walled garden containing a lofty pink edifice crowned by an elaborate dome, the Samadh of Maimensing, which covers the site of his funeral pyre. Behind is an enclosed yard overlooked by a bright yellow temple. At one spot a fire burns brightly. In another, smoke steals feebly from a heap of charred ashes. Near by a couple of men are piling fresh logs upon a funeral pyre. On the ground lies a naked body lashed to a bamboo pole. Rs. 3 as. 3 pies 3 is the fee charged for use of the burning ground.

To south of the garden, and tall pink Samadh of Maimensing, rises a very beautiful triple gateway of carved stone. The doors are of wrought iron emblazoned with the arms of Mysore. Above is Lakshmi, goddess of good fortune, between two sculptured elephants. The portico admits to a delightful flower garden, the prelude to a finely carved temple and pavilion to the memory of the late Maharaja of Mysore.

#### FOURTH DAY . . . . MORNING.

Visit the Mint, Old Mission Church and the Marble Palace of Raja Mullick in Mukhtaram Babu Street, Chore Bagan.

#### THE MINT.

Calcutta boasts of the largest Mint in the world, a great white building of classical design at the northern end of Strand Road, a little beyond Howrah Bridge. Passes are obtainable from the Mint Master, to whom previous application must be made. The present edifice dates

from March 31, 1824. On that day the foundations were laid by the architect in person, Captain W. N. Forbes, Bengal Engineers. at a depth of  $26\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The site selected was alluvial ground reclaimed from the river. The central portico is a half-size reproduction of that of the temple of Minerva at Athens. It was six years before the building was finished at a cost of thirteen lakhs of rupees. An additional eleven lakhs were spent upon machinery. When the Mint, which was intended to supply two-thirds of the East India Company's entire currency, was working at full pressure, the monthly expenditure was estimated at Rs. 18,000. Gold, silver and copper money continued to be struck in the name of the Delhi Emperor until the reign of King William IV, when English coinage was introduced in 1835. Prior to that the obverse of the Calcutta sicca rupee bore the following Persian inscription:—"Defender of the Muhammadan faith, Reflection of Divine excellence, the Emperor Shah Alam has struck this coin to be current throughout the seven climes."

Entrance is no longer by the Doric portico, but by a narrow passage, to north, traversed by a trolley line. This leads through to a central quadrangle surrounded by verandahs, about which the Mint is built. A reservoir originally occupied the middle of the courtyard, where vaults now stand. Here the bullion is nightly stored under a military guard. The first room, which the visitor enters, is one of the most interesting. Here old coins are being broken up prior to re-minting. Among them are many belonging to the days of the Company. Specimen coins are preserved in cases. Notice should be taken of the handsome gold mohur first issued in

1835. The design consists of a lion, typifying strength, and a palm tree, emblematic of perpetuity, and was suggested by Captain Forbes, architect of the Mint, in 1820. Flaxman executed the drawing. The reverse displays a wreath and the value in English, Persian and Nagri characters. The Alligation department contains a marble bust of Major-General W. N. Forbes, who died on May 1, 1855, after a connection with the Mint of over thirty-one years. He not only built it but directed the operations for more than two decades. Smoke obscures the atmosphere of the smelting room, where dusky figures show dimly in the lurid light of red-hot crucibles and flaming forges. The crucibles are of plumbago and can only be used eight or ten times. The noise is deafening in the machinery departments. All the floors are of cast-iron. The stamping room is a regular Tom Tiddler's ground strewn with shining silver pieces. Gold is no longer coined in the Calcutta Mint, merely silver, nickel and copper. In normal times the output is six lakhs of rupees per diem. Under war pressure this was increased to twenty lakhs in December, 1918. All coin is despatched to the Currency Office in Dalhousie Square for distribution.

Medals are also stamped in the Mint. The engraving department possesses a silver replica of the famous Waterloo medal. Only four were ever struck. These were of gold and were distributed among the four allied sovereigns of Austria, Russia, Prussia and Great Britain, whose heads appear on the face. The Duke of Wellington and Blücher are depicted on the reverse.

Owing to the jealousy of the Nawab of Bengal, Calcutta remained without a mint until 1760. In the



previous year a firman authorising its establishment had been procured from the Delhi Emperor as follows:—"To the noblest of merchants, the English Company, be the royal favour. In Calcutta a mint is authorised. You shall coin gold and silver of equal value and fineness to the ashrafies and rupees of Murshidabad in the name of Calcutta. In the suburbs of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa they shall be current, and no person shall demand, or insist upon discount on them."

*Under Moghul administration silver coin was the only legal tender. Gold mohurs and pice were struck for convenience sake, but Government never dictated how many pice should go to a rupee, nor yet the number of rupees to a gold mohur. The historian, Abul Fazl, records that Sher Shah, who wrested the throne from Humayon in 1542, introduced the silver rupee, which standard was subsequently adopted by Akbar. Under Hindu rule a gold standard prevailed. Coins were 60 and 120 grains in weight, and were clearly based upon the Grecian drachm and didrachma of gold.*

### THE OLD MISSION CHURCH.

(This interesting old Church is in Mission Row, a thoroughfare which runs behind Dalhousie Square, East, from Mangoe Lane, in the south, to Lall Bazaar, in the north. Its former name was Rope Walk. As such it was the scene of some sharp fighting, in June, 1756, prior to the capture of Fort William by Siraj-ud-Daulah. The Church stands on the east side of the road, on the site of Lady Russell's house. Lady Russell was a great-granddaughter of Cromwell and a daughter of Governor Morse, who surrendered Fort St. George, Madras, to the French.

A white marble tablet, on one of its yellow gateposts, is inscribed:—"Old Mission Church, founded 1772.") It is the earliest existing place of Protestant worship in Calcutta and was built by John Zachariah Kiernander, a Swede, who joined the Danish Mission inaugurated in 1706 by Ziegenbalg and Pluschau. Kiernander landed at Cuddalore, in South India, in 1740. His advent was welcomed by the English authorities, who at once placed him in charge of the Portuguese Church, at Fort St. David, the Honourable Company's factory near the French Settlement of Pondicherry. Here Kiernander became acquainted with young Robert Clive, a writer of twenty, who, upon the capture of Madras by the French in 1746, made his escape to Fort St. David, Cuddalore. When, in May, 1758, Lally, the French Commander-in-Chief, stormed Fort St. David, and razed it to the ground, in retaliation for the seizure of Chandernagore, Kiernander was made prisoner. He was soon released and proceeded to Calcutta, where Clive assigned him quarters. Here his son was born on November 4, 1758. The infant was named Robert, after Clive, who stood godfather to him. Kiernander worked as a missionary among the Portuguese, and made fifteen converts in the first year of his stay in Bengal. Governor Vansittart gave him the Collector's Office as a school house. Meanwhile Kiernander was bent upon erecting his own church, which he did at a cost of Rs. 65,000. With the exception of Rs. 2,000 the entire sum was defrayed out of his first wife's fortune. The edifice was a modest one of red brick. When finished it accommodated two hundred persons and received the name of Beth Tephillah, or the House of Prayer. Locally it was designated *Lall Girja*, or the Red

Church. The architect was a Dane named Boutant de Mevell.

On the death of his first wife, in 1761, Kiernander married Mrs. Anna Wooley, a rich widow. She died in 1773 and bequeathed her jewels to the Mission. With the proceeds Kiernander built the School and Parsonage. Shortly afterwards his sight failed owing to cataract. His own building activities and those of his son, Robert, involved both in financial ruin. As a result the Sheriff of Calcutta set his seal upon the Church, adjacent buildings and even upon the Mission Cemetery in Park Street, where Kiernander's two wives were interred. At this crisis Charles Grant, at that time Fourth Member of the Board of Trade, stepped forward and purchased the entire property for Rs. 10,000 and made it over to three trustees for the Mission. Kiernander withdrew to Chinsura. Here he was appointed Chaplain of the Dutch Settlement upon a monthly stipend of Rs. 50. When Chinsura was captured by the English, in 1795, the old man became a prisoner of war yet a second time. Returning to Calcutta he died in this city four years later, aged 88, and is buried in the Mission Cemetery.

After his departure for Chinsura, Kiernander was succeeded by the Reverend David Brown, one of the three trustees named in Grant's deed. By his exertions the Church was improved and took on its present aspect. When St. John's was closed for repair it became the place of worship of the Governor-General. Lord Wellesley and his famous brother, afterwards the Duke of Wellington, were present to hear Mr. Brown preach the memorial sermon, on September 23, 1804, the anniversary of the battle of Assaye. In 1870 the edifice was made over to

the Church Mission Society. The steeple fell in the earthquake of 1897 and was not rebuilt.

Entering by the carriage porch, to west, a black mural tablet is seen inside on the right. This commemorates Charles Grant, *obit* 1802, "formerly a Civil Servant of this Presidency, who was distinguished by his unwearied zeal in promoting the cause of religion in India, of which this Church, purchased at his expense and preserved for the service of God, is a proof and monument."

The Communion Table occupies the north end. To east of it a wall tablet is to the memory of a Muhammadan convert, Wullee-ul-Nissa Begam, a native of Jeddah and daughter of a Haji, who was baptised in this Church on February 16, 1871, and died at Murshidabad in 1876. The three stained-glass windows are a memorial to the Reverend Z. Kiernander. The Church is cruciform in shape. A double row of massive Corinthian columns line the main aisle. Numerous marble memorials adorn the cream-coloured walls. On the west side a tablet records the name and services of the Reverend Henry Martyn, Chaplain on the Bengal Establishment, who died at Tocat, Armenia, on October 16, 1812, aged 32. "He was a burning and a shining light," says the inscription. This gifted missionary caused the Parables, the New Testament and part of the Church liturgy to be translated into Hindustani. The great Macaulay, when 12 years old, wrote an epitaph in his honour beginning:--

"Here Martyn lies. In manhood's early bloom  
The Christian hero finds a pagan tomb."

Another tablet commemorates Doctor Daniel Corrie, the first Bishop of Madras, a former Chaplain of the Old

Mission Church. Yet another recalls Stephen Jacob, C.S.I., Comptroller-General of Indian Treasure and Signatory of Government Currency Notes.

### COLONEL MONSON'S HOUSE.

Opposite the Mission Church, to west, stands a three-storeyed yellow mansion of dignified aspect. A white marble tablet states:—"Here resided General Monson, member of the Council of Warren Hastings, 1774-76." Colonel Monson formed one of the historical majority opposing the Governor-General. He died at Hughli in September, 1776. His wife, Lady Ann Monson, predeceased him by a few months. Both are buried in South Park Street Cemetery. She was a daughter of Henry Vane, first Earl of Darlington, and claimed royal descent from Charles II, through her mother, Lady Grace Fitzroy, a granddaughter of the Duke of Cleveland, son of that Merry Monarch and Barbara Villiers, best known as Lady Castlemaine.

### GENERAL CLAVERING.

On the east side of Mission Row, to south of the Church, another tablet marks the residence of General Clavering, also a member of Warren Hastings' Council. The bungalow is an old-fashioned two-storeyed edifice surrounded by a compound. Here he died, and lies buried in Park Street Cemetery, near Colonel and Lady Ann Monson. General Clavering first won fame as a Brigadier at the attack on Guadeloupe, in 1759. He personally led the British force on this occasion and returned home "covered with more laurels than a boar's head," to quote Walpole. His great-grandson, Lord Napier, officiated as

Viceroy upon the murder of Lord Mayo, in February, 1872.

### THE MARBLE PALACE.

By courtesy of Kumar Brojendro Mullick, the public are admitted free daily, between 10 A.M. and 5 P.M., to view the art treasures for which the Marble Palace, in Mukhtaram Babu Street, Chore Bagan, is widely famed. Possibly nothing about the celebrated palace is more surprising than its situation in the crowded and somewhat sordid heart of the bazaar. The sudden transition from squalor to a fine garden resplendent with a host innumerable of statues, almost savours of magic. The mansion is built about four sides of an inner court gay with the brilliant colouring of peacocks, macaws and numerous birds of more sober plumage. These fly hither and thither at will, and form a picturesque if noisy addition to the many wonders of the palace. To east rises an archway and raised *daïs* for the performance of *Puja*, as the prayer ritual of the Hindus is termed. Entering the palace by the west door the visitor finds himself in a long marble-paved hall lined with statues. To north is a small room, containing an immense statue of the late Queen Victoria in her Coronation robes. Beyond again is a vast salon of glittering chandeliers and yet more statues. Upstairs, the walls are hung with a varied collection of pictures, chiefly oil paintings. Among them are two by Reubens. One is in the south drawing room, and depicts the martyrdom of St. Sebastian. The same room contains an original painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The second Reubens is in the north-west marble chamber. The subject is the marriage of St. Catherine. It was presented to the

Government Art Gallery in Calcutta by Lord Northbrook, and subsequently purchased, in 1905, by the present owner, who has refused fifteen thousand pounds sterling for it.

The grounds of the palace are hardly less interesting than the interior. They contain a number of aviaries and some rare animals. The collection dates from Rajah Rajendra Mullick Bahadur, who was born in 1819, and became an orphan when only three years old. The Supreme Court appointed Sir James Hogg his guardian. This gentleman gave the boy some birds. To this modest beginning the aviaries and menagerie trace their origin. The southern end of the garden is arranged as a grotto. Here a white marble Sannyasi may be surprised at his devotions in a cave. Near by lurks a Greek goddess, and within a few paces a Bodhisatva sits plunged in meditation.

To north is the Thakurbati, wherein the presiding deity of the family is enshrined. Here many hundreds of the poor are fed daily, for the Sil or Seal family, better known by the title of Molk, or Mullick, bestowed upon them of old by the Delhi Emperor, have ever been renowned for charity.

#### FOURTH DAY . . . AFTERNOON.

#### VISIT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.

The Botanical Gardens are at Sibpur, on the west bank of the Hughli, a little beyond Howrah. They can be reached by road or river. The latter is the pleasanter and also the more economical route. Steamers make the trip frequently from Chandpal Ghât. Time-tables are procurable from the Port Commissioners.

Chandpal Ghât is on Strand Road near the High Court. It takes its name from Chunder Nath Pal, whose provision stall stood near the site when jungle covered the Maidan. The erection of Fort William, at Govindpore, led to an avenue being made along the river bank. This was the fashionable promenade known as Rodentia. The wharf, in front of the old fort, was abandoned, and Chandpal Ghât became the State landing stage for Governors-General, Admirals of the Fleet, Commanders-in-Chief, Judges and all entitled to the dignity of a salute. As such it was the birthplace of the bitter feud between Philip Francis and Warren Hastings, which resulted in the duel at Alipore, and exercised so sinister an influence over British policy in India at a most critical period. The quarrel had its origin in an imagined slight. Upon arrival at Chandpal Ghât the royally appointed Members of Council—Clavering, Monson and Francis—were only welcomed with seventeen guns, whereas they had anticipated nineteen at the very least. Nor was this all. Warren Hastings failed to meet them, or furnish a guard-of-honour to Government House on the Esplanade hard by.

From Chandpal Ghât the little steamer crosses to Sibpur, then back to Tuckta Ghât, on the east bank, the landing stage for Hastings, or Coolie Bazaar. Here the fleet lay, in June 1756, after Governor Drake and the Military Commandant had abandoned Fort William and its doomed garrison, to the investing army under Siraj-ud-Daulah. Finding that no ships returned to the rescue. Holwell, who directed the defence, determined to cut a way through to Surmans, as Hastings was then termed, under cover of darkness and so gain the fleet.



Unfortunately the fort fell before he could make the attempt. That same night witnessed the tragedy of the Black Hole.

Lower down lies Kidderpore, where docks were first constructed in 1780, by Colonel Henry Watson, known to fame as second to Francis in the duel at Alipore. He also established a marine yard for the repair of warships and merchantmen. Later on the docks passed to the two sons of Colonel Kyd, Chief Engineer at Fort William. From them the locality is called Kidderpore. Further south is Garden Reach, once the most fashionable suburbs of Calcutta. For two miles the river bank was lined with beautiful mansions surrounded by delightful compounds laid out between 1768 and 1780. In 1856 the house of Sir Lawrence Peel, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was purchased by Government for Wajid Ali Shah, the newly-deposed King of Oudh. The ex-Monarch acquired additional property in the neighbourhood. This allowed him to indulge in his passion for building. After his death the estate was bought by a syndicate and mills erected thereon.

The next stopping place is Shalimar on the Howrah side, a pretty name but a very ugly place. It owes its attractive appellation to Colonel Robert Kyd, the renowned horticulturist, who laid out the neighbouring Botanical Garden in 1787. He built a house for himself and made a pleasance modelled on the far-famed garden of Shalimar at Lahore. Of its former beauties naught but the name survives. Below stood the mysterious town of Bator, visited by Cesare Federicki in 1575. He wrote :—"Every year at Bator they make and unmake a village with houses

and shops of straw, and with all things necessary to their uses, and this village standeth as long as the ships ride there, and when they are departed, every man goeth to his plot of houses and sets fire to them. For, as I passed up to Satgaon, I saw this village standing with a great number of people, with the infinite number of ships and bazaar. At my return, coming down with the last ship, I was amazed to see such a place so soon razed and burnt, and nothing left but the sign of the burnt houses."

Below Shalimar attention is arrested by a stately grey pile of academic aspect. This is none other than the original Bishop's College founded by Bishop Middleton in 1820. The design was drawn by William Jones, who arrived at Calcutta, in 1800, as a mechanic. The closing event of his adventurous career was as architect of this, the first Gothic building erected in India. While supervising the work he contracted sunstroke and died. In 1880 it was converted into the Civil Engineering College.

The next stopping place is the Botanical Garden. The landing stage connects with a long straight avenue of palms, whence a short walk leads to the famous banyan tree reputed the largest in India. It is commonly believed to date from the middle of the 18th century. The probabilities are that it is much older. Lord Valentia went out to Sibpur on purpose to see it in 1803, and wrote that it was "The finest object in the garden, a notable specimen of the *Ficus bengalensis*." Many agricultural and horticultural experiments were tried with far-reaching results. Sir Joseph Hooker considered the introduction of the tea plant from China one of the

greatest triumphs achieved in the garden. Here, too, the quinine-yielding cinchona of South America was grown successfully when first brought to India by Sir Clements Markham. The Herbarium is the most important botanical feature of the garden.

The site of chief historical interest is that of the Superintendent's bungalow on the river bank. Here stood the old fort of Mukhwa Tanna. It was of brick. The one opposite, at Matiabrooze, on the east bank, was of mud. The former was built as a Moghul outpost to protect the upper reaches of the river from being raided by pirates from Arakan, who carried off the villagers and sold them in the slave market at Pipli. After nightfall a chain was stretched across from fort to fort. On January 1, 1757, Admiral Watson seized both strongholds on his way upstream to recapture Calcutta. Forty cannon were found. Among them were several 14-pounders. Seamen from H.M.S. "Tyger" captured the Tanna fort and set fire to it. Their comrades in H.M.S. "Kent" did the same with Fort Charnock. The capture of Tanna fort in 1742 by the Marathas led to the digging of the Maratha Ditch round Calcutta.

## OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST.

### PARSI TOWERS OF SILENCE.

To men of other races and religions there is something very mysterious about the Parsi method of disposing of their dead. This explains the universal interest, or rather curiosity, evinced in the Towers of Silence by travellers. Calcutta possesses two of these strange edifices. Both are situated in a large brick-paved enclosure screened by high walls, on the Beliaghatta Main Road, to east

of Sealdah. The approach is through a garden laid out with palms and tanks. It is very silent. At the gate my guide bowed low before treading upon holy ground. From the adjacent mortuary temple floated the solemn chanting of prayers for the dead. To west a black mural tablet appears immediately to right of a low square door leading into the inner court. The inscription is written in letters of gold and is repeated in English and Gujarati. It records the building of the first tower, in 1822, by Nowroji, son of Sorabji Oomrigar. The work was finished "on the 27th roz Asman of the fourth month Tir 1191 Yezdezedi." The Parsis continue to date their calendar from Yezdezedi, the last King of the Sassanian dynasty. His overthrow by the Muhammadan invaders, and the religious persecution which followed caused those Persians, who remained true to the tenets of Zoroaster, to fly their native land and seek refuge in India. Here they were welcomed and protected by the King of Gujarat. This explains how their inscriptions come to be written in Gujarati.

Within the large quadrangle the solemn hush is intensified. In the foreground stands the round, white-washed tower erected in 1822. Behind stretches a double terrace and a second, more lofty Tower of Silence, consecrated on Sunday, 31st March, 1912. A flight of steps leads to a single opening in the shape of a narrow door on the east side. *None may mount but the white clad Nasasalars bearing the iron bier. The interior consists of three rows of hollowed-out spaces, each space large enough to receive a body. The outer ring is for men, the second for women and the third for children. The number three typifies the moral precepts of Zoroaster,*

“ Good deeds, good words, good thoughts.” After the Nasasalars have withdrawn the corpse is stripped of flesh by vultures. Ultimately the bones are swept into a central well, whence an elaborate scheme of drainage carries off all refuse after filtration through charcoal and sandstone. Parsis revere fire, water and earth as sacred elements, hence they have never burnt, or buried their dead for fear of defiling what is holy.

### THE DAREMEHER.

The Parsi Agiari, or Fire Temple, is situated in Metcalfe Street, a turning off Bow Bazaar Street. It is a modern building having been consecrated as recently as October 28, 1912. From the narrow courtyard a steep flight of marble steps leads to a verandah enclosed by fretted window screens. Beyond is a large oblong hall where worshippers congregate around the sanctum sanctorum, a small projecting room entered by two steps. The windows, to right and left, lack panes, but are barred with rods of glass. Iron chains swing from the bell-shaped dome of the roof. From each hangs a bell. A round pedestal in the centre supports the silver brazier containing the sacred fire.

Parsi temples are divided into three classes. To the first belong all those styled Atesh Behram, or the Fire of Behram, Angel of Success. The Calcutta shrine belongs to the second order. As such it is known as the Daremeher, or Gate of Mercy, also designated the Agiari, or place of Fire. The white-bearded, white-clad priest wears a stiff, curiously folded turban. None but he and his assistants may enter the innermost sanctum, where the sacred flame is kept perpetually burning.

The Parsis possess a second Agiari in Ezra Street. It was built by Rustomji Cowasji, a wealthy merchant and shipowner, and consecrated on September 16, 1839.

### ARMENIAN CHURCH OF ST. NAZARETH.

Founded by public subscription, in 1724, by the exertions of Aga Nazar, after whom it is named St. Nazareth, the old Armenian Church stands in the crowded heart of the bazaar in the ancient part of the city to north of Dalhousie Square. It is reached by way of Clive and Canning Streets. In the former the Exchange occupies the site of Begam Johnson's house. The latter thoroughfare traverses the Portuguese quarter known as Murghihatta, or Chicken Market, from the fact that the Portuguese were the only people who kept fowls.

Motors can easily go as far as old China Bazaar Street, a turning to left off Canning Street. From here the distance is short and it is best to proceed on foot. The main entrance to the church is in Khongrapati (brick-sellers) Street, and consists of a lofty door surmounted by an iron cross. This is usually kept locked. Admission can always be obtained from Armenian Street, the first turning on the right, a few paces further to the north. Here a wooden door leads into a species of hall paved with gravestones inscribed with Armenian characters, and various quaint devices such as cherub heads, skulls, cross-bones and scales of justice. Beyond is a courtyard where practically every step is marked by a tomb. The earliest is dated July 11, 1630, just sixty years before the English settled in Calcutta. High above the surrounding

jumble of houses soars the belfry of the quaint old yellow church, its spire springing from an octagonal pavilion and curious tower. Round windows and glittering crystal chandeliers lighten the darkness of the interior. Six massive fluted pillars line either side of the central aisle. As is usual in Armenian churches the altar consists of five graduated steps or shelves. Above is a fine oil painting of the Last Supper.

The architect was an Armenian named Cavona. He was specially brought across from New Julfa, near Ispahan, for the purpose. The steeple was added in 1734 by Aga Manuel, whose father, Aga Hazarmall, lies buried underneath. The inscription records how he was murdered during his sleep in the early hours of May 30, 1757. The church was restored and beautified by Aga Petrus Aratoon in 1763. Seventeen years later Aga Catchik Arrakiel presented the clock and built the surrounding wall and houses for the clergy.

### THE JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.

The Jewish Synagogue is a conspicuous red brick building on the north side of Canning Street. Its tall spire is visible from afar, and forms a welcome landmark amid the labyrinth of lanes and narrow twisting passages, which, of old, constituted the quarter known as Black Town. The interior decorations are both solemn and rich. An inscription states :—"Elias David Joseph Ezra, the Father of the Jewish Community, who, to orthodox principles, united a heart susceptible of all that is good. This magnificent Synagogue, Magham David, was built at his sole expense on a site belonging to the old Synagogue Neveh Shalom. He was born on the 20th

February, 1830, and died on the 3rd February, 1880."

The building is 140 feet long and 80 wide. The architectural style is described as Italian Renaissance.

### THE PORTUGUESE CATHEDRAL, MURGHIHATTA.

The old Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary lies immediately behind the Synagogue. It is most easily reached by Portuguese Church Street, a turning off the north side of Canning Street. The present building dates from 1797. Originally the site was granted to some Augustinian missionaries in the time of Job Charnock. They proceeded to build a humble edifice of mud and thatch. This was replaced by a brick chapel erected in 1700 at the expense of Mrs. Maria Tench, daughter of the master of the ketch "Samuel." Twenty years later the church was enlarged by Mrs. Sebastian Shaw. The graves of these two benefactresses lie to left and right of the high altar. When the forces of Siraj-ud-Daulah captured Calcutta, in 1756, the Portuguese Church escaped total destruction. Its records, however, perished. On the recovery of the city, by Admiral Watson in the following January, it was found that the English Church of St. Ann's had been burnt down. Consequently it was decided to temporarily appropriate the Portuguese sanctuary in Murghihatta. Here the Governor and his Council, together with the rest of the English Protestant community, worshipped for over three years. A Minute, in the Records of Fort William, dated March, 1760, reports a resolution to construct a chapel adjoining the east gate of the Old Fort, the Portuguese Church being found "too damp and



unwholesome." This was accordingly done, and the Church in Murghihatta restored to its owners.

In 1796 the old building was pulled down and the existing Cathedral erected in its place at a cost of Rs. 90,000. The greater part of this sum was subscribed by the brothers Joseph and Louis Barretto, Portuguese noblemen, whose family had given a Patriarch and two Viceroys to Goa. The foundation-stone was laid on March 12, 1797. The Cathedral was consecrated on November 27, 1799, and is a large flat-roofed, yellow building dominated by a grey spire at its northern end.

Entrance is from the south. Here steps lead up to a pillared portico paved with gravestones. The first to catch the eye is that of the wife of Gabriel Vrignon, *obit* January 16, 1773. The interior is illuminated by round windows coloured yellow and blue. A double row of arcaded pillars runs up the centre. The high altar stands at the north end. Behind it, on the wall, are handsome white figures of the Madonna and Child set in the midst of a gold many-rayed sun. Below sleeps Paul Goethals (1833-1901), the first Archbishop of Calcutta. The gallery to south contains the organ surmounted by a crown between two cherubs. Various mural tablets record the names of Vicars-General of Bengal. Among them is one to Patrick Joseph Carew, Archbishop of Edessa, *obit* 1855, well known in Calcutta as founder of St. Xavier's College. Gravestones appear on the pavement under the chairs. One of the oldest is to south-east and commemorates an Armenian named Petrus Hendy, who died in 1719. He is described as a Chaldean from Babylon.

The most interesting relic of all is in the school house to east of the Cathedral compound. Here a couple of

gravestones lie under the east wall of the class room. Time and the passage of many feet have obliterated all trace of inscription. The deficiency is made good by a white marble mural tablet which records :—"Near this place are interred the remains of Mrs. Mary Carey, wife of Peter Carey, Mariner. With her husband, mother, sister and other prisoners she was confined in the Black Hole Prison on the night of June 20, 1756. She survived the tragedy and died in Calcutta on Saturday, 8th March, 1801, aged 60 years. This tablet was erected by the Government of Bengal at the instance of the Calcutta Historical Society."

#### THE GREEK CHURCH.

A romantic story attaches to the Greek Church of Our Blessed Redeemer in Amratolla Street, a turning off the north side of Canning Street, within a few minutes' walk of the Portuguese Cathedral. The church lies to east of the narrow crowded bazaar in a small tree-planted garden containing a number of graves. It is a diminutive yellow building characterised by a flat roof relieved, at the west end, by a low triple belfry, pierced for three bells. White marble steps lead up to a shallow vestibule. The interior is paved with grey marble, and lighted by a couple of glittering crystal chandeliers, and two tall paschal candlesticks of polished wood. The sanctuary is hidden from view by a lofty wooden screen whereon hang five old oil paintings. Behind is the altar on a raised marble daïs approached by two steps. Above it is a wooden canopy surmounted by a cross. The walls of the church display black marble tablets with Greek inscriptions in letters of gold.

The edifice dates from 1780 and is dedicated to the Transfiguration of Our Blessed Redeemer on Mount Taber. It was founded by Alexias Argeery, a native of Philipopolis, who lies buried in the adjacent graveyard. His tomb is to south-east of the entrance steps. The inscription is well preserved and clearly legible, and records his death on August 5, 1777. Alexias Argeery is described as the first well-known Greek to settle in Calcutta. In 1770 he accompanied Captain Cudbert Thornhill as interpreter in the ship "Alexander," bound for Mocha and Jeddah. The vessel was caught in a tremendous gale and was about to founder when Argeery vowed to build a Greek church in Calcutta, should he ever return to that city. The voyage safely accomplished, he applied to the Bengal Government for permission to erect the promised sanctuary. Unfortunately, he died before he could execute the project. Rupees 30,000 were contributed out of his estate and the work began in 1780. Warren Hastings subscribed Rs. 2,000 towards it. The first priest to officiate was Parthenio, celebrated as having served as model for the Christ in Zoffany's celebrated painting of the "Last Supper," now hanging in St. John's Church.

### DHARAMTOLLA MOSQUE.

This is the handsomest place of Muhammadan worship in Calcutta. It stands at the corner of Esplanade East and Dharamtolla, and was erected in 1842 by Prince Ghulam Muhammad, a son of Tipu Sultan. After the death of that Monarch, in 1799, his family were removed from Seringapatam, and assigned quarters in Vellore Fort, 70 miles south-west of Madras. Here a mutiny broke out in

1806. Muiz-ud-Din Sultan, third son of Tipu, and younger of the two hostage princes surrendered to Lord Cornwallis in 1792, was suspected of complicity. He was put on board the "Culloden" and shipped to Calcutta. He and his eleven brothers were given palaces at Tollygunj, where some of their descendants still reside.

Prince Ghulam Muhammad was born in 1796. He was the first Indian Prince to visit England, where he was graciously received by Queen Victoria, who created him a Knight Commander of the Star of India. Her Majesty further honoured him with autograph portraits of herself, the Prince Consort and their children. These now hang upon the walls of Phul Par, the house in Tollygunj Circular Road inhabited by his great grandson, Ghulam Hussein Shah. The Prince erected a second mosque on the east side of south Russa Road, Tollygunj. It is a yellow building similar in design to the one in Dharamtolla, and faces a garden, down the centre of which runs a masonry terrace. This supports four tombs. In the second, from the west, sleeps Prince Ghulam Muhammad under two graduated marble slabs. He died in 1872. His portrait hangs in Government House, as do pictures of his brothers.

The red house overlooking the eastern end of the mosque enclosure is the residence of the descendants of Karim Shah, the elder brother of Tipu Sultan. Lower down, on the south side of Prince Azim Shah Road, is the Khas Mahal, or Mirror Palace, once inhabited by Prince Sobhan Sultan. Beyond, to north-east, is Natch Kothi, Dancing House, where the before mentioned Prince Muiz-ud-Din lived, after his transfer from Vellore, until his death in 1818. Slightly off Russa Road, to

south, hidden by high walls, is Russa Kothi, the palace of Prince Mohi-ud-Din, fourth son of Tipu Sultan. Other palaces were the Tollygunj Golf Club, the Ladies' Royal Golf Club and a mansion at Russa belonging to Prince Jasin Sultan. The family records are preserved in the Nishan Hyderi, or Annals of Haider Ali.

### THACKERAY'S HOUSE.

Tradition points to the Armenian College, 39, Free School Street, as the birthplace of the great novelist. Here he first saw the light of day on July 18, 1811. At that time Richmond Thackeray, his father, was Secretary to the Board of Revenue. When his illustrious son was six months' old Mr. Thackeray was appointed Collector of the Twenty-Four Pergunnahs, and moved to the Lodge, Alipore, originally the garden-house of Sir Phillip Francis.

Free School Street dates from 1780. Prior to that it was a bamboo jungle, which people avoided after sunset as a haunt of robbers. It takes its name from the Free School founded in 1737 and transferred, in 1789, to the house once inhabited by Mr. Justice Le Maistre, the Judge who committed Nuncomar to the Presidency Jail pending his trial in the Supreme Court on the charge of forgery.

### THE BOSE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

World-wide interest centres in the Research Institute, 93 Circular Road. Founded by Sir Jagadish Chunder Bose it was opened on November 30, 1917, and contains an electrical plant, laboratories, lecture hall and garden, where experiments are also conducted. The line

of scientific investigation followed is a new one. Sir J. C. Bose seeks to wrest the secrets of Nature by direct application to Nature herself. As a result of prolonged research he has established the theory that the plant and animal kingdoms are governed by the same fundamental laws. This announcement startled science, which had hitherto not suspected that the nature of physiological reaction was identical in plant and animal. An equally momentous discovery was that of the dual nervous impulse in plants, since when Sir J. C. Bose has demonstrated that the nervous impulse generated by stimulus in the animal nerve is not single but double.

In order to prosecute his peculiar method of research, Sir J. C. Bose was compelled to design special instruments. The most important of these is the Balanced Crescograph for measuring the growth of plants. Its magnifying power is a million. This enables the effect of an anæsthetic, or chemical upon a plant to be determined in a few seconds. In the garden visitors are shown a couple of large pipal trees, which were chloroformed, then dug up, transported a certain distance and replanted without experiencing the slightest ill-effects. This opens up an alluring vista of arid shadeless routes rapidly transformed into cool and beautiful avenues, by trees brought from some distant forest, while unconscious, and established in their novel surroundings without knowing how, or when. The sensations of Rip Van Winkle would be mild compared to the bewilderment of such a tree. Plants actually sleep. By means of the Crescograph Sir J. C. Bose has ascertained that animation is suspended for one hour in every twenty-

four, while the plant rests from its labours. Doctor N. C. Nag is Professor of Chemistry at the Institute.

### CLIVE'S HOUSE.

Clive's House occupies a large compound on the west side of the Dum-Dum Road, seven miles from Government House, Calcutta. It is entered by two gates. The second is the more direct. The building is a massive two-storeyed structure of brick, faced with yellow plaster, now weather-stained a neutral grey. It is raised on an artificial terrace and looks southward across a handsome tank. A few steps lead up from a deep carriage porch to the hall door, over which a white marble tablet bears the inscription:—"This house was the country house of Lord Clive 1757-60 and 1765-67."

Until recent years this historical mansion served as an officers' mess. Now, in spite of its solidly buttressed walls, it appears in danger of falling into ruin. The north and west sides of the ground floor have been gutted with fire, and the spacious compound is a neglected wilderness.

### DUM-DUM.

From remote ages Dum-Dum appears to have been a military post. Tradition speaks of a fort, and also of a robber stronghold. Under the Honourable Company's rule it became an important cantonment, the headquarters of the Bengal Artillery. A little beyond Clive's House, and on the same side of the road, stands the old Club, later converted into a Freemasons' Hall. Further on still rises the white Church of St. Stephens. It stands in a spacious grass-planted compound

surrounded by trees, notably the sweetly smelling blossom-laden champa. The interior is plain. Handsome memorial tablets line the walls. The oldest monument is a small black octagonal slab inserted in the pavement near the south door. It is sacred to Mary, wife of Sergeant T. O'Leary, Bengal Artillery, *obit* June 12th, 1818, aged 16. Near by is a mural tablet to Sir Alex. Macleod, K.C.B., Colonel of the 5th Battalion, Bengal Artillery, *obit* 1831. This distinguished Commander served with Lake, Ochterloney, Hastings and Combermere.

In the north-east corner of the compound a tall white Corinthian pillar, topped by a funeral urn, commemorates Colonel T. Deane Pearse, Bengal Artillery, and was erected in 1790. To north lies the Club, a handsome white building in the architectural style of the latter part of the 18th century. Originally it constituted the headquarters of the Bengal Artillery. Here Lord Roberts first joined as a subaltern.

To north of the Church, on the opposite side of the road, an imposing red-brick gate-house admits to the ammunition factory. Old cannon serve as posts forced into the ground nozzle upwards. The green iron gate bears the date 1816, and the Royal Arms surmounted by the motto "pro pace" under a device of crossed cartridges. Close by, to east, soars a lofty grey column supported by a high plinth approached by ten steps. The design is most elaborate. An engraved tablet, on the western face, records the names of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the 1st Brigade, Bengal Artillery, who fell during the Afghan campaign of 1841 in the retreat from Kabul, and also those killed



in the Khyber Pass under Major-General Sir G. Pollock. The names occupy four long columns on the reverse of the monument.

In its day Dum-Dum was a gay little station with a theatre of its own. New barracks were erected early in the 19th century, and completed in 1813. A military guard was stationed along the high road between Dum-Dum Cantonment and Calcutta. The great Salt Lake washed its confines. The shores of this inland sea were covered with jungle, and were a favourite haunt of tigers and other wild animals. When drained off it left a flat expanse of treeless plain. Now Dum-Dum is the site selected for the Calcutta aerodrome. Doubtless this will bring life and interest back to the forsaken Cantonment, once the favourite residence of Clive.

### COSSIPORE GUN AND SHELL FACTORY.

Considerable interest attaches to the Gun and Shell Factory on the bank of the Hughli, in the south-west corner of Cossipore. First established in 1801 it was known as the Gun and Carriage Agency until 1826, at which date the manufacture of cannon was transferred thither from Fort William. This entailed a change of name to the Cossipore Gun Foundry. As the Honourable Company attached considerable importance to the maintenance of an effective Artillery, Colonel Hutchinson, of the Bengal Engineers, had been despatched to Europe for the express purpose of studying the best and most up-to-date methods then known to military science, in order that they might be introduced at Cossipore. The original Turning and Boring Room, built in 1831, is still standing. By 1872 bronze and cast-iron guns were

superseded by steel guns made in England. Upon this the Foundry specialised in shells and adopted the title of Foundry and Shell Factory. A shell shop was erected and is still in a good state of preservation. The place changed its name to the Gun and Shell Factory in 1905, when the manufacture of modern guns was established. By this time the works had outgrown the space available at Cossipore. Consequently foundries, rolling mills and forges were moved to Ishapore, where a branch was opened. At the same time both the old and new establishments were electrified and brought up-to-date. During the recent world war considerable additional land was acquired at Cossipore and Ishapore and large extensions made.

The way to the Gun and Shell Factory is by Circular Road and Cornwallis Street to the Canal. Once across the bridge, turn to the left and continue westward, then strike north along Cossipore Road. This traverses the ancient village of Chittrupur, now pronounced Chitpore, once famed for the temple of Chitrue Dabu, worshipped here with human sacrifices, it is rumoured, in the long ago. Here resided the Chitpore Nawab, Muhammad Reza Khan, to whom the internal administration of Bengal was confided by the Company when, in 1765, the Diwanship of the province was conferred upon them by the Delhi Emperor. Immediately beyond the Chitpore Police Station a cross road runs west to the Gun and Shell Factory. The main entrance faces south, a lofty brick gate-house adorned with the Royal Arms in gold above a shield bearing three gun carriages and the motto "Sua tela tonanti." Higher still is the inscription "Ordnance Factories" and the Arms of the Honourable

Company together with the motto “*Auspicio regis et senatus Angliæ.*” Almost opposite is the Chitpore Sugar Factory.

To north lies Barnagore, an old Dutch settlement, where, in the eighteenth century, vessels belonging to that nation anchored on their way up to Chinsurah. It contained a number of handsome residences and Dutch gardens.

### BARRACKPORE.

Barrackpore is a pretty little military cantonment on the river bank, 14 miles north of Calcutta. Prior to the annual exodus to Simla it was the hot weather retreat of Governors-General and Viceroys. Had Lord Wellesley been allowed a free hand in the matter, the probabilities are that it would have become the Capital of India. He proposed to transfer all public buildings from Calcutta to Barrackpore, and actually erected the basement storey of a magnificent Government House, which was to cost four lakhs of rupees. At this juncture peremptory orders were received from the Court of Directors in London forbidding the work to proceed.

Known locally as Chanak the neighbourhood owes its name of Barrackpore to the fact of having become the principal military station in Bengal, in 1772. It can be reached by river, rail, or road. The last-mentioned route makes a pleasant motor run *viâ* Circular Road to Sham Bazaar, and thence along Cornwallis Street to the bridge over Circular Canal, a busy waterway crowded with laden barges. To right rises a curious five-storeyed old semaphore tower built in the days of the Honourable Company. Soon trees shade the Barrackpore Trunk

Road, chiefly pipals, nim, banyans, palms, rain, asoka and tamarinds. To right and left stretch spacious compounds, tree-planted and bright with flowers, statues and mansions. Occasionally the thatched roofs and mud walls of a bustee strike a rural note in arcadian contrast to their opulent neighbours. A second tall semaphore tower is passed on the left, soon after the eleventh milestone. Thereafter high factory chimneys appear against the blue of the sky. The road traverses Titagarh, now a shabby village which sprawls along either side of the highway. Time was when Titagarh was notorious as a headquarter of the Thugs, or *phansighars*, the stranglers, a secret society composed of hereditary robbers, worshippers of Káli, or Bhawánee, dread goddess of blood sacrifice. The Thugs were the terror of Indian highways and byeways. In the nineteenth century they were hunted down by Colonel Sleeman, assisted by a special department of Police. Their gangs were broken up and their methods exposed. Soon the road splits into a fork. Keeping to the right it continues towards Barrackpore. Near the fourteenth milestone a grassy park appears on the left, and then the Golf Course. To right, a side road strikes to the railway station and Royal Hotel. A little further on is the white Garrison Church. Near by are the Plassey and Barisal Barracks.

. It was at Barrackpore that the Mutiny of 1857 first broke out. The trouble was caused by the decision to introduce the Enfield rifle into India, the cartridges for which required lubricating with grease. In England a mixture of pig's lard and beef fat were employed for the purpose. The former preparation is abhorrent to Muhammadans, who regard the pig as an unclean

animal. The latter is even more obnoxious to Hindus, in whose eyes the cow is sacred. As the Company's Sepoy Army was chiefly composed of Muhammadans and Hindus, discretion should have been exercised in the matter.

One of the guards employed at the Arsenal in Fort William told his comrades that the newly-issued cartridges were greased with the forbidden fats. As a result the troops at Barrackpore mutinied on January 24, 1857, and burnt down the telegraph office. From there the trouble spread.

Now Barrackpore is chiefly interesting to the outside world on account of its golf and race courses. The latter dates from 1816.

#### GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Government House is delightfully situated amid picturesque views of river, park and garden. Entrance to the grounds is on the left side of the road. The carriage drive leads across a rainbow bridge and past a blaze of tall cannas, yellow, scarlet and blue, near the fernery. The last named occupies the site of Lord Wellesley's palace. He had erected the basement storey, when orders were received from London forbidding the transfer of the seat of Government from Calcutta to Barrackpore. Immediately further work was abandoned. An immense amount of building materials had been collected. These were sold by public auction, nevertheless the shell of the projected palace remained standing until demolished by Lord Hastings.

Near by is Government House, an eighteenth century Georgian mansion of friendly aspect. It faces north and

is a long white building with green shutters and a deep portico, the pillars of which run up to the roof. The basement storey contains a number of gloomy rooms chiefly utilised as offices, and is traversed by two long passages, which cross in the centre. The main floor is above.

Entrance is by three doors on the north. These admit to a shallow hall whence stairs, to left and right, lead up to a billiard room. All the apartments are large and airy. The south face commands the river and is the more attractive of the two. The green trellis work porch is smothered in flowering creeper. At either side of it steps ascend to an upper portico of six smooth columns. The adjacent garden is enclosed by a crescent-shaped balustrade draped with brilliant blue convulvi. A fountain plays in a marble tank and a sun-dial gives the correct position of Government House as latitude  $22^{\circ} 45'$ ,  $33^{\circ} 3'$ ,  $88^{\circ} 21'$ ,  $22^{\circ} 1'$ .

In his Memoirs, Lord Wellesley mentions having taken the Barrackpore bungalow from the Commander-in-Chief, to whom it had been allotted by Sir John Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth. Lord Wellesley proceeded to lay out the neighbouring park and gardens, which comprise a thousand bighas or approximately three hundred acres of land. Lord Minto made no additions to the bungalow. Lord Hastings adapted it to its present proportions. The bamboo avenue down to the landing stage was planted by Lady Ripon in 1880. In those days the Viceroy spent his week-ends at Barrackpore during his annual sojourn of four months in Calcutta. He made the journey by river.

To west of Government House rises a classical white hall completely surrounded by a narrow verandah and

Corinthian pillars. Above the door a black marble tablet bears the following inscription in letters of gold:—“1813. To the memory of the brave.” Inside, the west wall displays a second inscription:—“This cenotaph was erected by Gilbert, Earl of Minto, Governor-General of British India, as a tribute of personal feeling and respect to the memory of the brave, whose names are engraved on the adjoining tablets, and who gloriously fell in the service of their country in the conquest of the Islands of Mauritius and Java in the years 1810 and 1811.” Then follow the names of twenty-one killed in Java, and three in the Isle de France, as Mauritius was then styled.

Tablets were placed on the wall opposite by order of Lord Ellenborough. They commemorate six officers who fell at Maharajpore, and three at Punniar, near Gwalior, on December 29th, 1843. The interior is paved with grey marble and is empty.

Beyond the cenotaph, to north-west, is Flagstaff Bungalow. According to tradition it covers the site of the garden house occupied by Job Charnock, who is known to have occasionally resided at Barrackpore where, according to one report, his wife lies buried. Near by, in the south-west corner of the grounds, stands a round three-storeyed semaphore tower. Close to it is the flag-staff pegged down to some old iron cannon.

Immediately to south-east of Government House is a remarkably large banyan tree. Proceeding eastward along the river bank a railed-off enclosure is reached. This contains an immense white marble tomb, above the grave of Lady Canning, wife of the first Viceroy. A somewhat similar cenotaph to her memory occupies the north verandah of St. John's Church, Calcutta.

Further east still a blur of grey smoke hovers above the tall factory chimneys at Titagarh. Low down on the river bank a white cloud marks the site of the burning ghât, the scene, according to local tradition, of Charnock's dramatic rescue of his wife from the flames of the funeral pyre.

Dockyards were established at Titagarh late in the eighteenth century, by Messrs. Hamilton and Aberdeen. Here the "Countess of Sutherland" was launched in 1801. She registered 1,145 tons and was the largest ship ever built on the Hooghly. Within a stone's throw of the old dockyard was the ghât at which Doctor Carey, the famous Baptist missionary, used to land and embark twice weekly, when leaving for, and returning from, his course of lectures at Fort William College, Calcutta.

### SERAMPORE.

Serampore lies just opposite Baruaekpore on the further side of the swiftly-flowing river. Communication is maintained by ferry. Originally a Danish settlement, it was sold in 1821 to the British for twelve lakhs of rupees. The most conspicuous monument to its early masters is the Church built by public subscription in 1805. Lord Wellesley contributed a thousand rupees towards it. He is said to have done so in the hope that a steeple would enhance the view as seen from Government House. Curiously enough no Danish minister ever officiated in the church. News of a fresh European war reached Fort William in 1803. Accordingly a military detachment was sent to seize Serampore on January 28, 1803. It was restored in 1815. During the temporary British



occupation the church was assigned to Baptist Missionaries of whom Doctor Carey was the chief.

At Ishapore, two miles below Serampore, Warren Hastings owned a country estate of 136 bighas. It was known as Rishera and was sold at public auction on September 2, 1784. There he used to send his wife, the celebrated "Marian," when she needed change of air, or on such occasions as her presence in Calcutta proved inconvenient. She was at Rishera when he fought his duel with Francis at Alipore.

### BHOT MANDIR.

Few people suspect the existence of a unique Buddhist Monastery on the river bank within twenty minutes' drive of Howrah Bridge. More than religious and antiquarian interest attaches to the shrine. In its day it played a political rôle of some significance, as may be gathered from the fact of its having been founded by so astute a statesman as Warren Hastings.

The old sanctuary is at Ghusuri, in Howrah, to north of Sulkea. The neighbourhood is known as Bhot Bagan, from the garden once pertaining to the shrine. This latter is reached by Bhot Bagan Lane, a turning beyond the big red Ghusuri Sri Radha Krishna Cotton Mills. The alley emerges in a neglected mango orchard. Four ancient grey Hindu temples mount sentry on the river's edge. Passing these a square enclosure is reached. The entrance is guarded by a bael tree, and consists of a central door, on the east, through a strange double-storeyed gate house composed of upper and lower verandahs facing the courtyard. The style is Thibetan and introduces pillars but omits arches. The north side is commanded

by the shrine, a yellow edifice raised about two feet from the ground on a plinth. A pillared verandah stretches along the front. The flat grey roof projects and is protected by a balustrade, while the tops of trees form a green screen behind. The west side consists of a two-storeyed house with green shutters. It is uninhabited. To south are godowns with a verandah. The centre of the brick-paved quadrangle is occupied by a low masonry platform shaded by a spreading roof of bamboo and thatch. Here cows replace the disciples and Bodhisattvas of a more pious age. The Mohunt, or priest is a jovial divine, scantily clad in white drapery from the waist downwards. He extends a cordial welcome to visitors.

The monastery traces its origin to a war. In 1772 Cooch Behar was invaded by the Bhutanese, who captured the Raja. Upon this the East India Company intervened by sending a punitive force into the country. The Bhutanese were defeated. Their Chief requested assistance from the Tashi Lama, who sent an envoy, named Puran Gir Gosain, with gold, silver and musk to Warren Hastings. The Governor-General sought to improve the occasion by entering into trade relations with Thibet. Accordingly, in 1774, he despatched a mission to the Tashi Lama. Mr. Bogle was in charge. He was accorded a friendly reception at Tashilimpo, during the course of which the Lama begged to be granted a site on the banks of the Ganges, to which his people might proceed on pilgrimage, that river being sacred to Buddhists as well as Hindus. Upon Bogle's return to Calcutta, in 1775, Warren Hastings immediately assigned land for the proposed monastery. This was built under Bogle's

direction. Meanwhile the Tashi Lama forwarded sacred books and Thibetan images for use in it, and appointed Puran Gir Gosain, a Saivite Sannyasi, to be the Mohunt, or Abbott. The monastery became the recognised hostel of Thibetan traders. Unfortunately the place was attacked by dacoits in 1795. Puran Gir Gosain was speared to death. His four assailants were caught and hanged in the monastery. He lies buried under the larger of the two temples to west near the tank.

The images, sent by the Tashi Lama, are still preserved. The principal deity is Arya Tara, otherwise Prajna Paramita of transcendental wisdom. She is honoured as the wife of all past and future Buddhas. The figure is about two feet high and is of copper overlaid with Chinese gold. It represents the daughter of the Chinese Emperor, Tai Tsang. This princess married the first Thibetan King in 630 A.D., and is regarded as an incarnation of the goddess of wisdom. Another statue depicts Mahakalu Bairava described as the patron deity of the Thibetan Lamas. The image boasts forty-six heads, namely nine on each of four sides, thirty-six arms and eighteen legs. A garland of skulls hangs round the neck.

When the Muhammadans, under Baktiar Khilji, invaded Bengal in 1203 A.D., Buddhism still existed. Buddhist priests continued at Bodh Gaya as late as 1331. In the religious persecution that followed the faith was submerged rather than totally exterminated, with the result that it persists, to this day, as a debased form of superstition known as Dharma worship. From an early age trade was maintained with Thibet, which supplied the Delhi court with gold, copper, lead, musk, honey, hill

ponies, falcons and those yak tails which formed so picturesque and indispensable an adjunct of royalty.

### CHIEF CLUBS.

Bengal Club. Established 1827.  
 Bengal United Service Club. Established 1845.  
 Royal Calcutta Golf Club. Established 1829.  
 Royal Calcutta Turf Club. Established 1861.  
 Tollygunge Club. Established 1895.  
 Saturday Club.  
 Calcutta Club. Established 1907.  
 Jodhpur Club.  
 Automobile Association of Bengal.  
 Asiatic Society of Bengal, etc.

### GOVERNORS-GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT WILLIAM IN BENGAL.

NAME.	DATE.	REMARKS.
Warren Hastings . . . .	1772	Appointed Governor.
„ „ . . . .	1774	Promoted Governor-General.
Sir J. McPherson, BART. . . .	1785	
Earl Cornwallis . . . .	1786	Created Marquis in 1792.
Sir John Shore . . . .	1793	Created Baron Teignmouth in 1797.
Lt.-Genl. Sir A. Clarke . . . .	1798	Officiating.
Earl of Mornington . . . .	1798	Created Marquis of Wellesley in 1799.
Marquis of Cornwallis . . . .	1805	Second time.
Sir G. H. Barlow, BART. . . .	1805	
Baron Minto . . . .	1807	Created an Earl in 1813.
Earl of Moira . . . .	1813	Created Marquis of Hastings in 1816.
Mr. John Adam . . . .	1823	Officiating.
Baron Amherst . . . .	1823	Created Earl in 1826.
Mr. Butterworth Bayley . . . .	1828	Officiating.
Lord Wm. H. Cavendish Bentinck	1828	Promoted Governor General of India in 1834.

## GOVERNORS-GENERAL OF INDIA.

NAME.	DATE.	REMARKS.
Lord Wm. H. Cavendish Bentinck . . . . .	1834	
Sir Chas. T. Metcalfe . . .	1835	Afterwards created a Baron.
Baron Auckland . . . . .	1836	Created Earl in 1839.
Baron Ellenborough . . . .	1842	Afterwards created an Earl.
Sir H. Hardinge, K.C.B. . . .	1844	Created Viscount in 1846.
Earl of Dalhousie . . . . .	1848	Created Marquis in 1849.
Viscount Canning . . . . .	1856	

## VICEROYS OF INDIA.

NAME.	DATE.	REMARKS.
Viscount Canning . . . . .	1858	Created Earl in 1859.
Earl of Elgin and Kincardine .	1862	
Maj.-General Sir R. C. Napier	1863	Officiating. Later created Baron Napier of Mag- dala.
Colonel Sir Wm. Denison . . .	1863	Officiating. Governor of Madras.
Sir John Lawrence, BART. . . .	1864	Subsequently created Baron.
Earl of Mayo . . . . .	1869	Assassinated in the And- man Islands in 1872.
Mr. John Strachey . . . . .	1872	Officiating.
Lord Napier . . . . .	1872	Officiating.
Baron Northbrook . . . . .	1872	
Baron Lytton . . . . .	1876	Subsequently created Earl.
Marquis of Ripon . . . . .	1880	
Earl Dufferin . . . . .	1884	Subsequently created Mar- quis.
Marquis of Lansdowne . . . .	1888	
Earl of Elgin and Kincardine .	1894	
Lord Curzon of Kedleston . . .	1899	
Lord Minto . . . . .	1905	
Lord Hardinge . . . . .	1910	Seat of Government transferred to Delhi in 1911.
Lord Chelmsford . . . . .	1916	

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"     small     "     "	..	3 0
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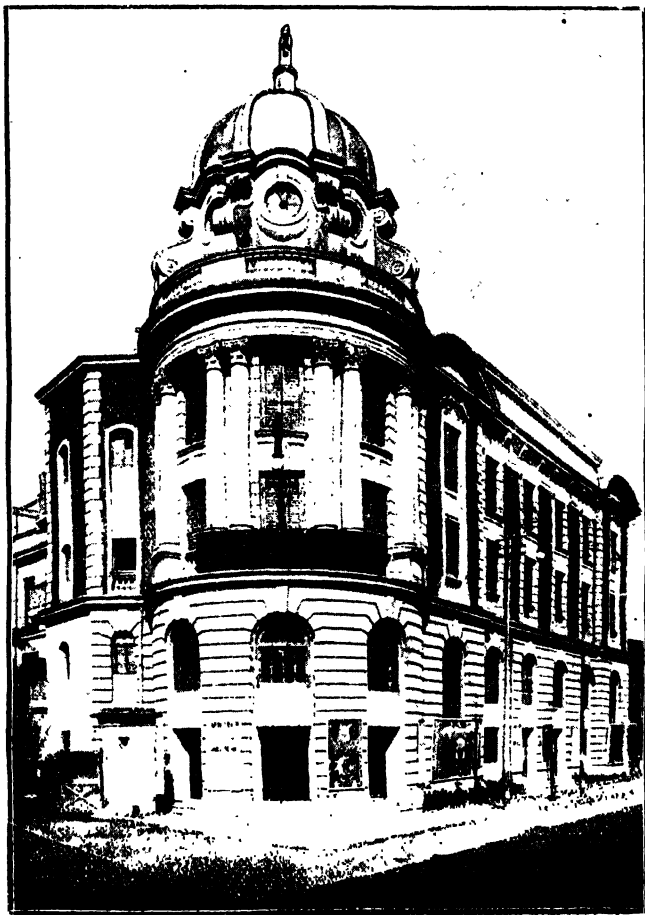
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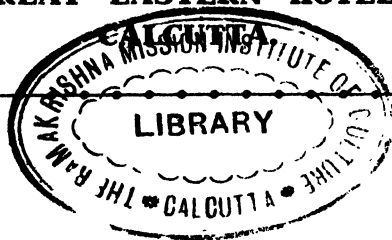
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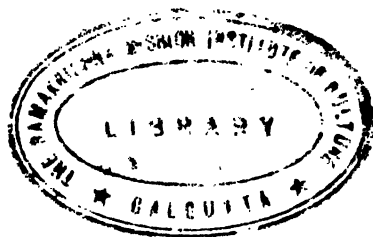
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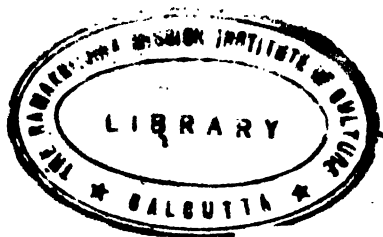












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